



# **Nursery Rhymes & Fables**

## **The Hare and the Tortoise**

# Nursery Rhymes & Fables



What do you see in the picture?

*This is actually a hare. A hare is similar to a rabbit, but hares have longer ears and are usually faster.*

# Nursery Rhymes & Fables

Hare



Rabbit



# Nursery Rhymes & Fables



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What do you see in the picture?

*This is actually a tortoise. A tortoise is similar to a turtle, but it is quite a lot larger and spends most of its time on land where turtles spend more time in the water. Tortoises move very slowly.*

# Nursery Rhymes & Fables

Tortoise



Turtle

# Nursery Rhymes & Fables

Which animal do you think is faster?





# **Nursery Rhymes & Fables**

You are going to hear a fable about a race between a hare and a tortoise.

Let's read to find out if your predictions are correct.

# The Hare and the Tortoise



There was once a hare who was always boasting about how fast he was. He never got tired of telling the other animals how fast he was--and how slow they were. The hare was especially boastful when talking to the tortoise.



# The Hare and the Tortoise



“What a slow fellow you are!” he said to the tortoise one day. “I really feel sorry for you, having to creep along like that. Creep, creep, creep! It must take you all afternoon just to cross the field!”

The tortoise was not amused. “You may be fast,” said the tortoise. “But I’ll bet I could beat you in a race.”

# The Hare and the Tortoise



“Ha, ha, ha!” the hare laughed.  
“That’s hilarious! You must be  
joking. A race between you and  
me wouldn’t even be close!”

The tortoise replied, “Well then,  
let’s try. Suppose we race to the  
foot of the mountain.”

“Sure thing!” said the hare.

# The Hare and the Tortoise



**darted:** means moved suddenly

**steadily:** means going at the same speed

The other animals gathered around to watch the race.

“Ready!” said the squirrel.

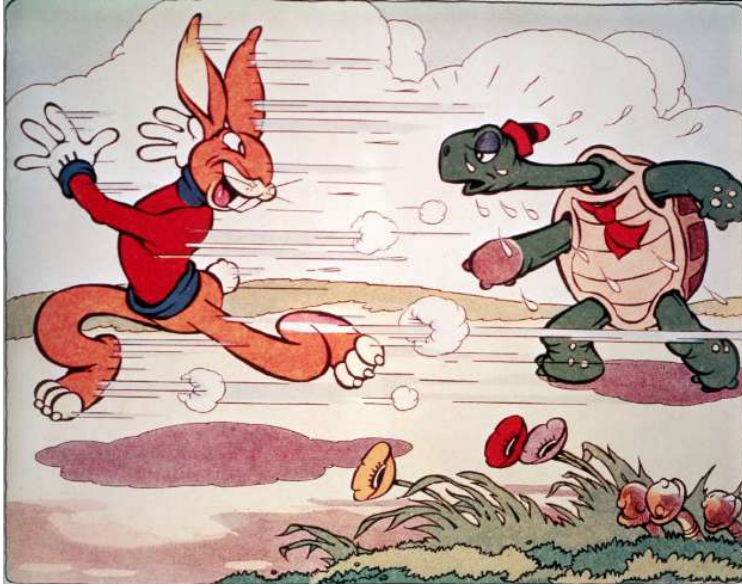
“Set!” said the mouse.

“Go!” said the raccoon.

The hare **darted** off quickly and ran so far ahead that he was almost out of sight. The tortoise set off too, moving slowly but **steadily**.



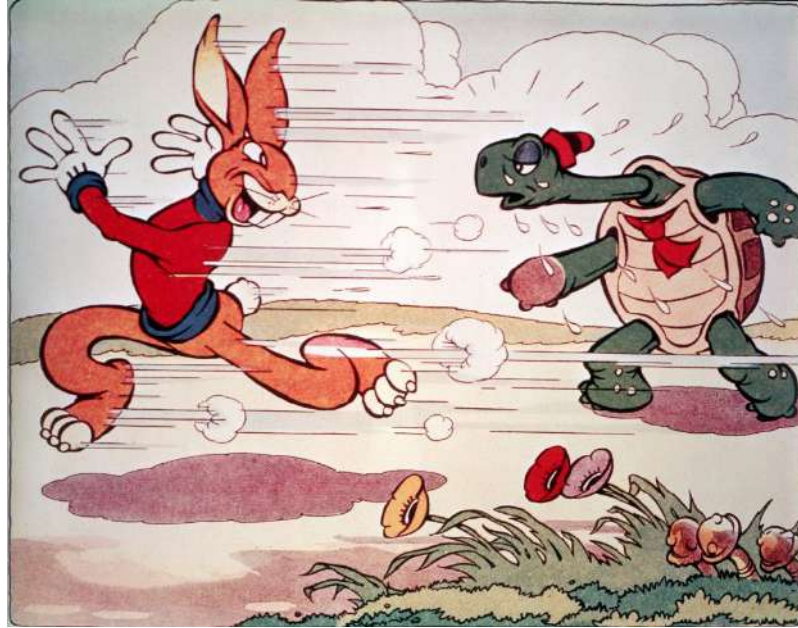
# The Hare and the Tortoise



After he had gone about halfway to the mountainside, the hare looked back. He saw that the tortoise was far behind; so far behind it seemed as if he could never catch up.

“This is not much of a race,” sniffed the hare.

# The Hare and the Tortoise



Since it seemed to him that the race was already won, the hare decided to stop and take a little break. He nibbled some carrots and some lettuce. He chatted with some friends.

All the while, the tortoise kept moving--slowly but steadily.



# The Hare and the Tortoise



The hare looked back again and saw that he was still way out ahead, so he lay down in a pumpkin patch, closed his eyes, and pretended he was sleeping. He didn't really mean to go to sleep. He just wanted to show the tortoise that he could take a little nap and still win the race. But it was a warm day, and it wasn't long before the hare began to feel sleepy.

Eventually he nodded off and began to snore.



# The Hare and the Tortoise



While the hare was napping, the tortoise kept moving--slowly but steadily. After fifteen minutes he crawled past the sleeping hare. After another fifteen minutes he was within a few feet of the finish line. That was when the hare woke up from his nap. He realized what had happened and set off running for the mountain as fast as he could. But it was too late. The hare arrived just in time to see the tortoise crossing the finish line before him.

# The Hare and the Tortoise



So, the moral of the story is:

“Slow and steady wins the race.”