

The Story of the Play Hare & Tortoise



It was winter. Tortoise slept; she was hibernating.
Hare waited; he wanted to race, but Tortoise was still sleeping. Hare had a practise. He ran, he won, he

celebrated noisily; then he remembered that he had to be quiet as Tortoise was sleeping. Tortoise stirred and put on her glasses. Hare was ready to race. Tortoise wanted to wait until spring. Hare couldn't wait for winter to be over and for spring to begin.

It was spring. Hare wanted to race. Tortoise wanted to plant some seeds to grow carrots. She slowly made four holes in the earth, one, two, three, four. Hare quickly planted the seeds, one, two, three, four.



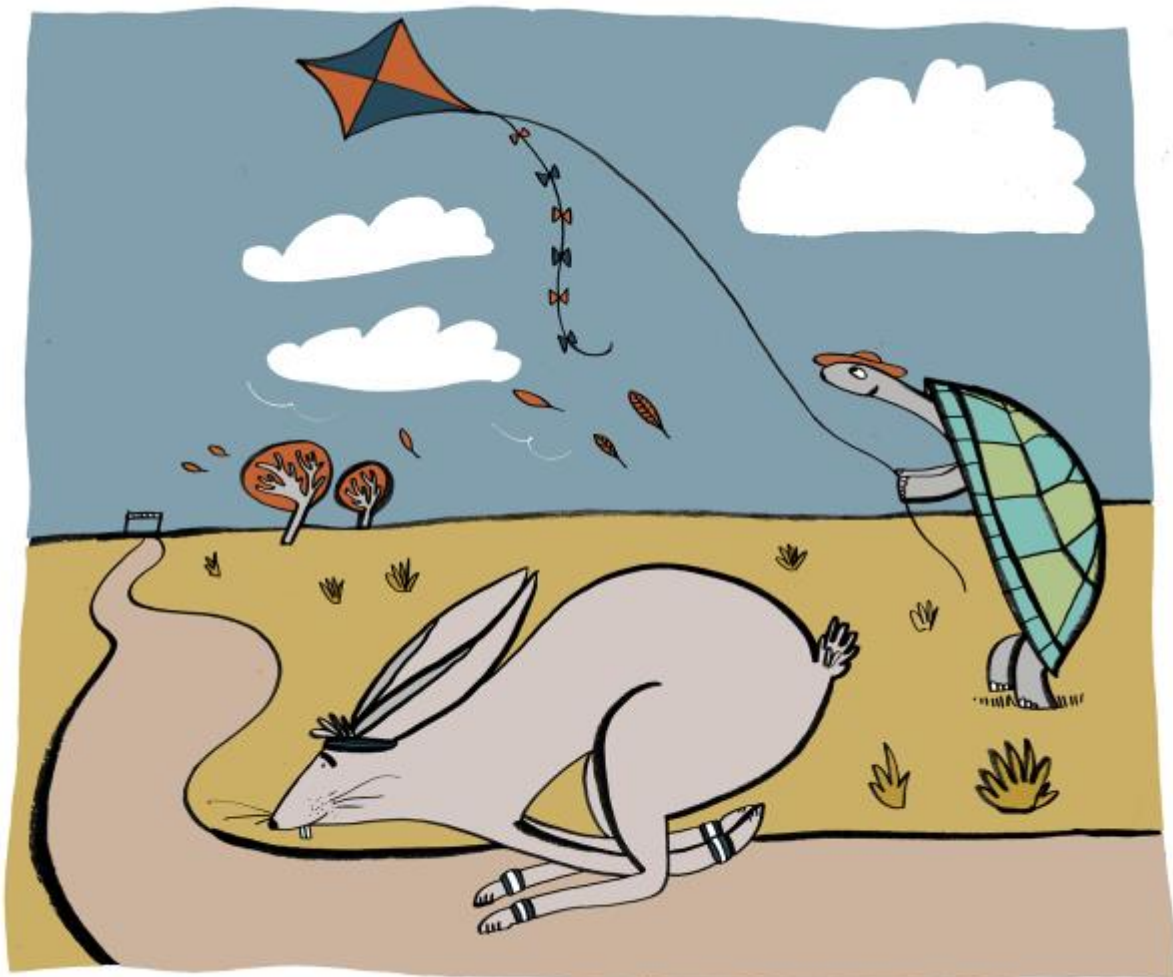
Hare was ready to race. Tortoise wanted to wait until summer. Hare couldn't wait for spring to be over and for summer to begin.

It was summer. Hare wanted to race. Tortoise wanted to water the carrots. Then she wanted to go on a summer holiday. They packed, they travelled, they arrived. Hare was ready to race. Tortoise wanted to play tennis; she then laid a cloth out for a picnic. Hare chased a butterfly; Tortoise went fishing.



Hare got bored; he wanted to race. Tortoise wanted to wait until autumn. Hare couldn't wait for summer to be over and for autumn to begin.

It was autumn. The wind began to blow; leaves fell. Hare wanted to race.



Tortoise wanted to race, but she wanted to train first to get fitter. They exercised and then they were ready to race. Hare suggested the route. Three times over the hill, through the long grass and back to the tree. Ready, steady go! Hare reached the top of the hill and looked back; Tortoise was miles behind. Hare saw a kite. He flew the kite and forgot to race. Tortoise overtook Hare and he had to run faster to be in the lead again.

Hare reached the top of the hill for the second time and looked back; Tortoise was miles behind. Hare sniffed the air; it smelt of carrots. Hare picked the carrots and ate them and forgot to race. Tortoise overtook Hare and he had to run faster to be in the lead again. Hare reached the top of the hill for the third time and looked behind him; Tortoise was miles behind. Hare settled down for a sleep. Tortoise caught up with him, saw him sleeping peacefully and sang him a lullaby. She finished the race and celebrated noisily.

Hare woke up. He ran to the finish line but he hadn't won. He was younger, fitter, faster, but he hadn't won. He wanted to race again. He would win next time for sure. He would have to wait until spring. It was winter now and time for Tortoise to hibernate. It was cold. Snow began to fall. Tortoise fell asleep and Hare began the long wait until spring.

