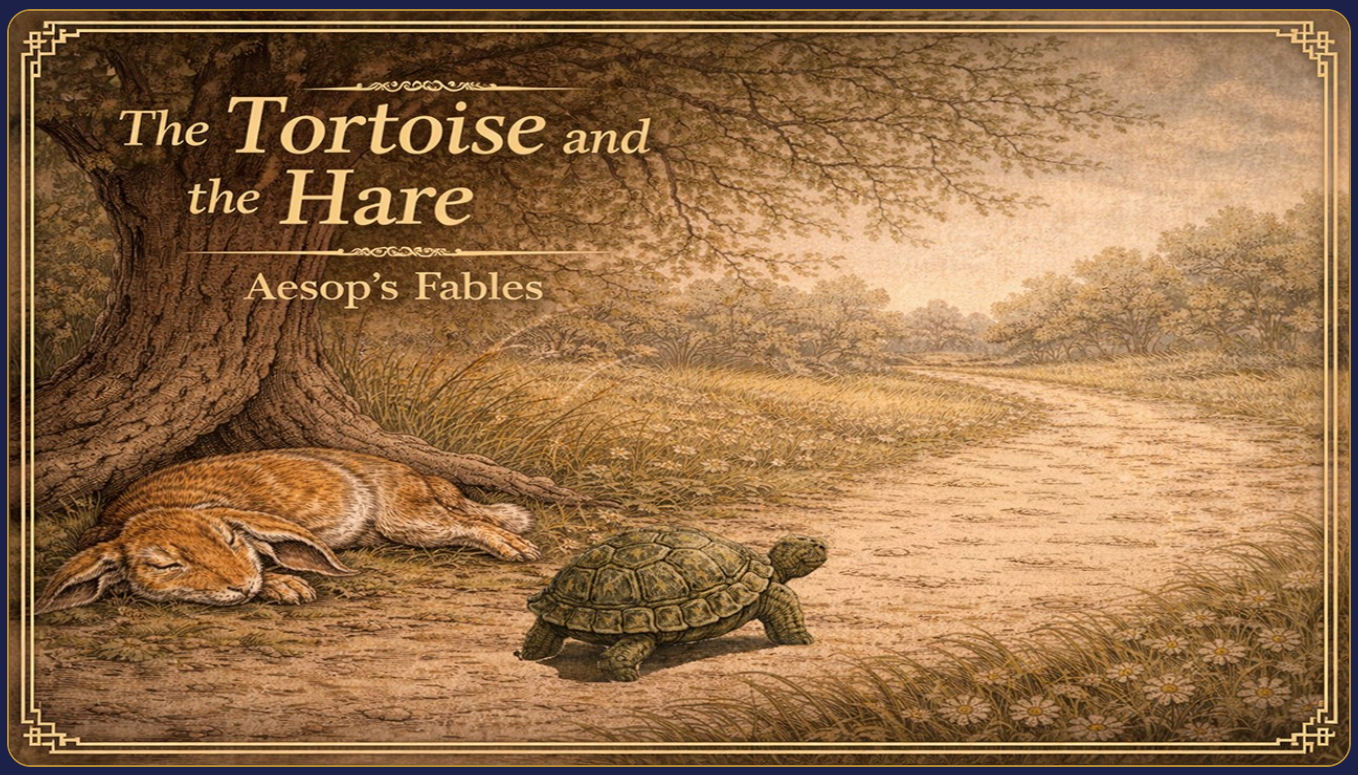
Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

An Aesop fable, from The Æsop for Children (1919)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Did It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Tortoise and the Hare." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A Hare makes fun of the Tortoise for being so slow, so the Tortoise challenges him to a race. The Fox marks the course and starts the runners off. The Hare is soon far ahead and lies down for a nap to show how silly the race is. The Tortoise keeps going slowly but steadily and passes the sleeping Hare. When the Hare wakes up, he runs his fastest, but the Tortoise is already near the goal.

SKILL FOCUS

Character traits: comparing the Tortoise and the Hare

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/tortoise-guide. *The Æsop for Children* (1919), illustrated by Milo Winter. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Aesop

Ancient Greece, about 2,500 years ago

Aesop is remembered as a storyteller in ancient Greece more than 2,500 years ago. Little is known for sure about his life, and some people think many storytellers' fables were gathered under his name. His fables are short stories, usually about animals that talk and act like people, and each one ends with a lesson called a moral. Our fables come from *The Æsop for Children* (1919), with pictures by Milo Winter.

Questions About the Author

1. Where did Aesop live?

2. What is a fable?

3. What is a moral? Can you think of one you already know?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Tortoise and the Hare



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Tortoise and the Hare

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. Why did the Hare make fun of the Tortoise?

2. Who was the judge of the race?

3. What did the Hare do in the middle of the race?

THINK

4. Why did the Tortoise win even though he was slow?

5. Was it a good idea for the Hare to take a nap? Why not?

CONNECT

6. Tell about a time you kept trying until you finished something hard.

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the fable back in your own words. How did the slow Tortoise win the race?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE MORAL

"The race is not always to the swift." Being fast is not enough. Slow and steady effort can win.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Character traits: comparing the Tortoise and the Hare

Write one thing that is hard for you right now. Then write one small step you can take every day to get better at it.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

tortoise	the one who decides who wins
hare	very fast
race	a turtle that lives on land
judge	without stopping
mocking	a contest to see who is fastest
steadily	the finish line
swift	an animal like a big rabbit with long ears
goal	making fun of someone

Word Sort: Tortoise or Hare?

Write each word in the right box.

slow · fast · kept going · took a nap · laughed at his friend · steady · too sure of himself · won the race

Tortoise	Hare

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Tortoise and the Hare

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

B	P	G	L	W	A	L	D	C	R
N	A	P	Y	S	Y	S	N	I	C
G	O	A	L	L	M	L	M	W	O
N	F	U	F	W	U	O	E	P	P
H	A	K	V	T	P	W	F	P	F
V	S	R	D	D	O	Y	O	S	E
U	T	H	N	P	O	D	X	M	I
A	W	A	D	U	B	P	R	R	W
E	U	R	A	R	A	C	E	E	I
H	U	E	L	R	R	V	N	T	N

WORD BANK

- ☐ HARE
- ☐ FOX
- ☐ RACE
- ☐ NAP
- ☐ SLOW
- ☐ FAST
- ☐ GOAL
- ☐ WIN

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The Hare made fun of the Tortoise. Yes No
2. The Fox was the judge. Yes No
3. The Tortoise took a nap. Yes No
4. The Hare was soon far ahead. Yes No
5. The Tortoise stopped to rest. Yes No
6. The Hare won the race. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

race hare nap goal fox

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Hare lies down for a nap.
- ◯ The Hare laughs at the slow Tortoise.
- ◯ The Hare wakes up and runs his fastest.
- ◯ The Fox starts the race.
- ◯ The Tortoise passes the sleeping Hare.
- ◯ The Tortoise says, “I’ll run you a race.”

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Did It?

Read each sentence. Write who did it. Use the name bank to help.

the Fox | the Hare | the Tortoise

asked with a mocking laugh, “Do you ever get anywhere?” _____

said, “I’ll run you a race and prove it.” _____

marked the distance and started the runners off _____

lay down beside the course to take a nap _____

kept going slowly but steadily _____

How Did the Hare Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

proud | silly | sure | sleepy | surprised | worried | embarrassed

When…	the Hare felt…
he laughed at the Tortoise	
the race began	
he was far ahead	
he lay down for a nap	
he woke up	
the Tortoise won	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Four readers take the parts. Give the Hare a quick, bouncy voice and the Tortoise a slow, calm one!

NARRATOR	A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.
HARE	“Do you ever get anywhere?”
TORTOISE	“Yes, and I get there sooner than you think. I’ll run you a race and prove it.”
FOX	“Ready, set, go!”
NARRATOR	The Hare was soon far out of sight, and he lay down to take a nap. The Tortoise kept going slowly but steadily.
NARRATOR	When the Hare woke up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare ran his swiftest, but he could not catch up.
EVERYONE	“The race is not always to the swift!”

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Tortoise and the Hare

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

Slow and steady

Slow and steady

Slow and steady

wins the race.

wins the race.

wins the race.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the Tortoise, the Hare, the Fox (the judge). Setting: a country road from the start to the goal. Problem: the Hare makes fun of the slow Tortoise, so they race. Solution: the Hare stops for a nap, and the Tortoise keeps going and wins.

Let's Talk

1. Because the Tortoise was so slow. 2. The Fox. 3. He lay down beside the course and took a nap. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Search

B	P	G	L	W	A	L	D	C	R
N	**A**	**P**	Y	S	Y	**S**	N	I	C
G	**O**	**A**	**L**	L	M	**L**	M	W	O
N	**F**	U	F	W	U	**O**	E	P	P
H	**A**	K	V	T	P	**W**	**F**	P	F
V	**S**	R	D	D	O	Y	**O**	S	E
U	**T**	**H**	N	P	O	D	**X**	M	I
A	W	**A**	D	U	B	P	R	R	**W**
E	U	**R**	A	**R**	**A**	**C**	**E**	E	**I**
H	U	**E**	L	R	R	V	N	T	**N**

Word Match & Sort

tortoise: a turtle that lives on land · hare: an animal like a big rabbit with long ears · race: a contest to see who is fastest · judge: the one who decides who wins · mocking: making fun of someone · steadily: without stopping · swift: very fast · goal: the finish line. Sort: Tortoise: slow, kept going, steady, won the race. Hare: fast, took a nap, laughed at his friend, too sure of himself.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. No. ABC order: fox, goal, hare, nap, race.

Put It in Order

the Hare laughs at the Tortoise → "I'll run you a race" → the Fox starts the race → the Hare naps → the Tortoise passes him → the Hare wakes and runs, but the Tortoise wins.

Who Did It?

1. the Hare · 2. the Tortoise · 3. the Fox · 4. the Hare · 5. the Tortoise

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Hold a "slow and steady" race: walk heel to toe across the room without stopping.
- Make a finish-line banner and draw who won.
- Read it with The Crow and the Pitcher, another fable about not giving up.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Tortoise and the Hare ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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