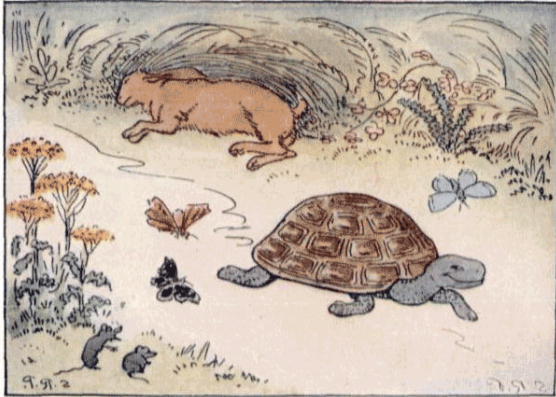


Aesop's Fables – The Hare and the Tortoise



A Hare one day ridiculed the short feet and slow pace of the Tortoise, who replied, laughing: "Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in a race." The Hare, believing her assertion to be simply impossible, assented to the proposal; and they agreed that the Fox should choose the course and fix the goal. On the day appointed for the race the two started together. The Tortoise never for a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course. The Hare, lying down by the wayside, fell fast asleep. At last waking up, and moving as fast as he could, he saw the Tortoise had reached the goal, and was comfortably dozing after her fatigue.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What does the word "ridiculed" mean?
2. What does the word "assertion" mean?
3. What does the phrase "assented to the proposal" mean?
4. What strange thing did the Hare do during the race?
5. What role did the Fox play in this race?
6. Which one was faster, the hare or the tortoise?
7. What is the theme or main message?

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Answer Key

1. What does the word ridiculed mean?

Ridicule means to make fun of or to offend. The Hare was making fun of the Tortoise's short feet and slow speed.

2. What does the word assertion mean?

An assertion is a statement. The Hare thought the Tortoise's statement that she could win the race was crazy.

3. What does the phrase “assented to the proposal” mean?

This phrase means that the Hare agreed to race the Tortoise.

4. What strange thing did the Hare do during the race?

He took a nap.

5. What role did the Fox play in this race?

The Fox decided where and when they would race.

6. Which one was faster, the hare or the tortoise?

The Tortoise was faster because he got to the finish line first. The Hare actually had more speed, but since he did not try hard enough, he did not win.

7. What is the theme or main message?

♣ **Slow but steady wins the race.**

♣ **Just because a person has talent does not mean he or she will be successful. You must always work hard and try your best.**