

The hare and the tortoise

Once upon a time, in a beautiful, peaceful forest, lived a very fast hare and a friendly tortoise. The hare was always boasting that she was the fastest animal of all, and loved showing off in front of the others.

One day, while walking through the forest, she met the tortoise and said with a teasing smile:

“Hello, Tortoise! How about a race? I’m sure to win!”

The tortoise, who was calm and sensible, replied:

“All right, Hare. Let’s race! But remember, the fastest runner does not always win.”

The hare burst out laughing.

“Ha, ha, ha! We’ll see about that!”

The forest animals gathered to watch the big race. The squirrel acted as referee and marked the starting line with a branch.

“On your marks! Ready, steady, go!”

The hare shot off like an arrow, racing along the path. The tortoise began to walk slowly, step by step, without hurrying but without stopping.

The hare ran so far and so fast that she soon left the tortoise behind. Seeing how far away her rival was, she decided to rest in the shade of a tree. She was so certain she would win that she thought:

“I’ll take a little nap. When I wake up, there will still be plenty of time to win.”

She fell asleep beneath the tree, dreaming of her victory. Meanwhile, the tortoise kept moving forward, step by step, without stopping for a moment.

The animals cheered her on.

“Keep going, Tortoise! You can do it!”

The tortoise smiled and continued walking, trusting in her steady effort. She reached the place where the hare slept and passed quietly, keeping on towards the finish.

When the hare woke, she was alarmed to see the tortoise close to the finish line. She ran as fast as she could, but it was too late: the tortoise crossed the line and won!

All the animals clapped and congratulated her. A little embarrassed, the hare came over and said:

“Well done, Tortoise. You have taught me that the winner is not always the fastest, but the one who keeps going.”

The tortoise smiled kindly.

“Thank you, Hare. What matters is doing our best, step by step, and never losing hope.”

And so the hare and the tortoise became friends, and both learned a valuable lesson about friendship and perseverance.