

The Hare and the Tortoise

retold by Maria Eulalia Valeri

From one of Aesop's best known fables about an overly confident hare and a humble tortoise, retold using old-fashioned illustrations and a fast-paced story.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Which animal would you rather be, a rabbit or a turtle?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the rabbit is laughing?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Hare and the Tortoise*

- tortoise: a large turtle
- hare: a rabbit
- boastful: overemphasize possessions or accomplishments
- cabbage: edible plant with leaves, like lettuce
- nibbling: take small quick bites
- polished: to finish off

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was tortoise doing when hare found him?
- What did hare think he could do faster than tortoise?
- What were some of the things that the hare did while he was racing tortoise?
- Who won the race? How did tortoise win?

Do

Hare and Tortoise Puppets

You will need: copies of the hare and tortoise cutouts (one for each child), colors/markers, scissors, tape, craft sticks or pencils.

Give each child a copy of the "Hare and Tortoise" sheet. They will color and cut out both animals and then tape them to a pencil or craft stick. The children can recreate the story or act out their own story.

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