Fable: The Turtle and the Rabbit   Adapted from the Traditional

I'm a very wise bird, an owl, but even I did not think my friend the turtle could win a race. Here is the story.

One day, the rabbit was boasting of his speed. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "when I put forth my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best." He was hopping up and down.

The turtle said quietly, "I accept your challenge. I am tired of your bragging. I am confident that I can beat you." The turtle looked around with her sleepy eyes and saw that the other animals were smiling.

"That is a good joke," said the rabbit. "I could dance around you all the way. You will never speed past me!"

"Keep your boasting till you've beaten me," answered the turtle. "Shall we race? I know that I can defeat you."

So they set a route for the race. It went through hills and rocky paths. It had rained, so the rocks were slippery.

They were off! The rabbit darted speedily almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped to rest. He believed that the turtle could never catch him. "I'm going to lie down by some bushes at the top of this hill to have a nap," he said to himself. The turtle kept racing, slowly but surely on his way to the goal.

Then a noise woke the rabbit woke from his nap. The snail and frog and other animals were all cheering loudly. He saw the turtle was near the finish line. The rabbit ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw the turtle had reached the goal. He was very surprised. He had never lost a race.

"Ha, ha," I said. "I knew that my friend would win. The turtle is strong and steady. You are fast, but you didn't think about how hard the turtle would try. I knew he would try harder than you. I know a lot. That's why people say owls are wise birds." The other animals smiled.

Then the rabbit said, "I have learned a lesson today."

CCSSR2—figure out a theme or lesson.
What did the rabbit learn?
Every fable has a moral—a lesson you can learn. What is a lesson you can learn from this fable?