

I am 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 showing off. "I have never been lost a race. I challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best." He was hopping up and down.

The turtle said quietly, "I will race you. I am tired of your bragging. I know I can beat you." The turtle looked around with her sleepy eyes and saw that 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!"

"You will see!" said the turtle.

So they planned the race. The path went through hills. It had rained, so the path was slippery.

They were off! The rabbit darted speedily almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped to rest. He was sure 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, never stopping.

A noise woke the rabbit woke from his nap. The snail and frog and other animals were cheering loudly. The rabbit saw the turtle was near the finish line. The rabbit ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. The turtle had reached the goal. The rabbit 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 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."