

**Fable: The Tortoise and the Hare** Adapted from the Traditional

All reading includes standard 1. Figure out what it says and then infer about it.

**When students read a story carefully, taking time to think,**

they can figure out more, they can identify a BIG idea it tells them. That's standard 2. Fables are great opportunities to figure out the BIG idea.

A hare is a kind of rabbit. Rabbits can run fast. Usually they can't talk. But in this fable, one does. A fable is a story with animals instead of people in it, and the story it tells teaches a lesson. Here is the story.

The Hare was boasting of his speed before the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "when I run as fast as I can. I challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best."

Tortoise is another word for turtle. The Tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge. I am tired of your bragging. I believe that I can beat you."

"That is a good joke," said the Hare. "I could dance around you all the way. You will never be able to speed past me. You will not win. What a foolish turtle."

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

So they set up the race. It would follow a curved path along a hill with rocky ground, trees, and bushes.

The Hare darted speedily at once, but soon stopped and, believing that the Tortoise could never catch him, lay down for a nap by some bushes at the top of the hill. The Tortoise never stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the race course.

When the Hare awoke from his nap, he looked down and saw the Tortoise just near the finish line at the bottom of the hill. The Hare ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw the Tortoise had reached the goal. He was very surprised. Then the Hare said,

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Read Closely--OBSERVE: What do you know about the place? Underline words that tell about it. What do you know about the hare? List words that tell about the hare.

INFER: What do you think the Hare said at the end? Why?

SUMMARIZE: Every fable has a moral—a lesson you can learn.

What is a lesson this fable teaches?

*TV READING Every story has a message. Sometimes it's very clear, like this fable. Sometimes it is hard to figure out. Watch a drama on TV. After it ends, figure out its message. Yes, you're reading TV!*