

## Fable: The Tortoise and the Hare

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fiction

Source: Adapted by CUE from Gutenberg

The Hare was once **boasting** of his speed before the other animals. "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."

The Tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge. I am tired of your bragging. I am confident 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 get the victory."

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

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The Hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, believing that the Tortoise could never catch him, lay down by the wayside to have a nap. The Tortoise never for a **moment** stopped, but went on with a slow but **steady pace** straight to the end of the course.

When the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning post. The Hare ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw the Tortoise had reached the goal. Then said the Tortoise: "Slow and **steady** wins the race."

## Infer Meaning of Word from Context – Fiction

Questions developed for Chicago Public Schools by CUE, 2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What does it mean that the hare is **boasting**?

- a. He is angry.
- b. He is fast.
- c. He shows off.
- d. He is winning.

3. What does **pace** mean?

- a. a space
- b. how fast
- c. how long
- d. post

2. What does **moment** mean?

- a. a little time
- b. a stop
- c. a winner
- d. a surprise

4. What does **defeat** mean?

- a. beat
- b. change
- c. stop
- d. joke

5. Write your own answer to this question. What does **steady** mean?

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### TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
Steady means that the tortoise kept on going and did not stop.