

## The Hare and the Tortoise

One day, the hare went for a walk and came upon a tortoise who was slowly making his way down the road. The hare laughed at the tortoise's short legs and slow pace. He bragged about how fast his long legs could run. He bragged so much that the tortoise became annoyed. He stretched out his long neck and peered calmly at the hare. "As fast as you may be, my friend," the tortoise challenged, "I will beat you in a race."

The hare thought this was a fine joke. A hare racing with a tortoise indeed! "My, my!" mocked the hare. "What a fine idea! I accept your challenge, Mr. Tortoise. A race we shall have!"

A date was set, and a course was mapped. All the animals gathered at the starting line. The race began, and the two took off. Being such a swift runner, the hare shot ahead and was out of sight in no time. Halfway down the course, he stopped. Picturing the tortoise plodding his slow way down the road, the hare thought it would be hours before the tortoise made it to the finish line. And there was such a fine meadow just over the hill and covered with the loveliest green clover. There was plenty of time! So the hare disappeared over the hill where he played in the meadow and chomped on the clover and became very sleepy. He decided he would take a quick nap before returning to the race.

Meanwhile, time passed and the tortoise never stopped or even once slowed down. He just kept plodding his slow, steady pace straight toward the end of the course. When the hare woke up from his nap and realized the time, he raced back to the road as fast as he could toward the finish line. But it was too late. He could not make up for the time he had lost, and the tortoise won the race!

Moral: Slow but steady, stick to your course to win the race.