

The tortoise and the hare



A story about doing your best.

Cast

Hare
Tortoise
Race starter
Forest animals

The story

There once was a speedy hare who thought they were the fastest animal in the forest. They were always running around, doing push ups, and showing off their muscles.

There was also a tortoise, who moved very, very slowly. So slowly, in fact, that it almost looked like they weren't moving at all. Tortoise was fed up with Hare showing off, and one day they decided to challenge Hare to a race.

Hare laughed, and laughed, and laughed. They laughed so hard that they had to lie down. But Hare agreed to the race, and shook hands with Tortoise.

On the day of the race all of the animals of the forest lined up to watch.

The race starter made sure that Hare and Tortoise stood behind the start line. Then they shouted, 'On your marks, get set, go!' All of the animals cheered.

Hare zoomed down the road for a while, but they were soon tired, so they stopped to rest. They looked back at Tortoise, who had only just moved past the start line. 'There's plenty of time to relax', Hare thought, so they stretched out beside the road and had a nap.

Meanwhile, Tortoise walked, and walked, and walked. They walked past the sleeping Hare and on and on, not stopping until they reached the finish line.

The animals who were watching cheered so loudly for Tortoise, that they woke up Hare. Hare stretched and yawned. They began to run again, but it was too late, Tortoise had won the race!

After that, Hare always reminded themselves 'don't boast about your speedy pace, for slow and steady won the race!'

The moral of the story

Tortoise won the race, even though they weren't the fastest. Tortoise did their best, kept going, and didn't give up, so they got there in the end! Hare didn't do their best—they got bored and tired and thought they didn't need to try, so they had a nap instead... and then they lost.

The lion and the mouse

A story about being kind.

Cast

Lion
Mouse
Hunters
People to form a human trap

The story

One day a great lion was having a little nap in the forest. Lion snored so loudly that their mane shook with every snore.

A tiny mouse crept up to the sleeping lion. Mouse admired Lion's soft ears, long whiskers and great mane.

'Since Lion's sleeping', thought Mouse, 'they'll never know I'm here!'. So the little mouse reached out a paw and touched Lion's mane—and Lion kept on snoring. Mouse grew braver and stood in front of Lion—but Lion kept on snoring. Finally, Mouse made a cheeky face at the Lion... and at that moment, Lion woke up with a huge roar and caught Mouse between their paws.

'Please,' said Mouse, 'if you let me go, I'll come back and help you someday'.

Lion laughed and laughed. The mouse was far too small to be of any help, especially not to the king of the forest! The lion laughed so hard that they had to hold their tummy—they let go of the mouse, who jumped to freedom and ran until they were far, far away.

The next day, two hunters came to the forest with a big cage. They were going to trap Lion. They tied a strong rope to the cage and hid behind a tree to watch. Lion walked straight into the trap and the door slammed shut with a loud bang! The lion roared their loudest roar, but they couldn't pull themselves free.

Mouse heard Lion's roar and came running back to help. The mouse began nibbling at the rope on the trap, and didn't stop until it broke in two. Lion was free, and the hunters ran away screaming.

Lion turned to Mouse. 'Dear Mouse,' they said, 'even though I was mean to you for being small, you helped me when I needed it. You are a true friend.'

The moral of the story

A little friend can be a great help. Even though the lion didn't speak kindly to Mouse, the mouse still came back to help. Mouse kept their Promise.

The wind and the sun

A story about being helpful.

Cast

Sun
Sun's rays
Wind
Wind's icy fingers
Person

The story

The Wind and the Sun were having an argument about what was more important—being strong, or being helpful. The Wind thought that strength was the best, but the Sun thought that helpfulness was better. They decided that there was only one way to sort it out... they'd have to have a competition.

Sun pointed to a person out walking along the pavement. The person was wearing a cosy winter coat. 'Come on then. Let's test our strength.' said Sun, 'Let's see which one of us can take the coat off of that person.'

'Easy peasy,' boasted Wind. 'I'll go first.'

Wind blew hard and sent their icy fingers to try and pull the coat off the person. The birds clung to the trees and the world was filled with dust and leaves. The harder Wind blew, the harder their icy fingers pulled at the coat... but the harder Wind's icy fingers pulled at the coat, the more the person held on! Wind was very angry.

'My turn!' smiled the Sun. Sun came out from behind a cloud and their rays warmed the air and the frosty ground. The person on the road smiled, and unbuttoned their coat.

Slowly, Sun grew brighter and brighter, and their rays gently warmed the air around the person. Soon, the person felt so hot that they took off their coat and sat down in a shady spot.

Now, Wind was furious. 'How did you do that?' they demanded.

'It was easy,' said Sun. 'I was helpful, instead of being a bully.'

The moral of the story

Helpfulness is better than force. It's good to think about how your actions will affect other people, and how they'll make them feel.

The ant and the grasshopper

A story about loving our world.

Cast

Grasshopper
Ants

The story

One summer's day a grasshopper was lazing around on the grass when they saw a family of ants. The ants were very busy rushing around and collecting ears of corn.

Grasshopper called out to the ants to calm down: 'sit down and relax,' they said, 'stop working so hard!'

The ants ignored Grasshopper. They carried on collecting ears of corn and putting them in a pile ready for winter.

The next day Grasshopper was hopping along, singing a song, when they saw the ants, who were still busy working. 'Don't you every stop working?' asked the Grasshopper.

The ants put their hands on their hips. 'Just you wait!' they said.

When winter arrived, the days were cold and dark. Nothing grew and Grasshopper was hungry. They went to see the ants, and found them happily nibbling on the ears of corn.

'Please give me some corn!' begged Grasshopper, but the ants shook their heads.

'We knew that winter would come', they said, 'so while you were relaxing we were busy storing up food.'

Grasshopper's looked so sad and hungry that the ants began to feel sorry for them. So, even though Grasshopper had been lazy (and had teased them for working hard), they invited them in to share their food.

Grasshopper was very grateful. They promised that next summer, they'd collect and store enough food for everyone all to enjoy together in winter.

The moral of the story

The world will give you what you need but you have to work for it too. We should be thankful for everything the world gives us, we should respect it, and we should look after the world and other people.