

The Hare & the Tortoise



KIERAN
MCGOVERN

Fastest

A hare and a tortoise once lived in the same wood. The hare was very fast. He liked to race other animals.

'I am the fastest animal in this wood,' he said. 'I can beat any of you in any race. Who wants to race me?'



The fox raced the hare. He lost. The squirrel raced the hare. He lost, too. 'I'm the fastest animal in the world!' said the hare. 'No animal here can beat me!'

Silly tortoise?

The old tortoise opened a sleepy eye. 'Do you want to race me?' he said.

The hare laughed loudly. 'You silly old tortoise! You're the slowest animal in the wood.'

'Do you want to race me?' repeated the tortoise

The hare laughed until tears ran down his white cheeks. 'Oh, that's very funny!' he said. 'You want to race me!'

'I do,' said the tortoise. 'We can race from one end of the wood to the other.'

Slower

That afternoon all the animals came to watch the race. They all wanted the tortoise to win. 'But he's going to lose!' said the squirrel to the badger. 'Tortoises are very slow.'

'But they are also very clever,' said the Badger.

The Race

The race started. The hare quickly raced away. After running a hundred metres, he looked back.

The tortoise was a long, long way behind. 'That silly tortoise!' thought the hare. 'He could never beat me!'

It was a very hot day. The hare soon felt very tired.

He came to a tree. 'I'll rest here for a few minutes,' he thought. 'The tortoise can't catch me.'

Sleep

The hare sat down beside the path. He closed his eyes. Soon he was asleep.

When the hare woke up, the sun was low in the



sky.

A squirrel came by.

'Where is that silly old tortoise?' asked the hare.

'He's finishing the race, now,' said the squirrel.

'WHAT!' cried the hare.

Finish

The hare ran to the other end of the wood. When he arrived the tortoise was just crossing the finish line.

All the other animals cheered.

The tortoise turned and looked at the hare. 'You're not the fastest animal, Mr Hare,' he said, 'but you are the laziest.'