The Hare and the Tortoise

An Aesop Fable
Retold by Sarah Keane



Illustrated by Christine Jenny

Once upon a time, there was a hare who always boasted about how fast he could run. He laughed at the tortoise for carrying his house on his back. And he laughed at him for being so slow.





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One day, the tortoise grew annoyed, so he argued with the hare. "Who do you think you are? I know you are very fast, but even you can be beaten!"

The hare just laughed. "Beaten in a race? Who could beat me in a race? Not you! I'm sure there's nobody in the world who could win against me. I'm so fast. Why don't you try?"





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The tortoise accepted the challenge. He really was annoyed. A course was planned. Early the next morning, the hare and the tortoise stood at the starting line.



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The hare yawned as the tortoise plodded off slowly. When the hare saw how slow his rival was, he decided to take a quick nap. "Take your time!" he called to the tortoise. "I'll just have forty winks. I'll catch up with you in a minute."



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After a while, the hare woke with a start. He gazed around, looking for the tortoise. But the tortoise was only a short distance away. He had not even managed to cover half the course!

The hare breathed a sigh of relief. He decided he might as well have breakfast. So off he went to munch some lettuce in a nearby field.