Helping your children choose books they will love

I ♥ reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

The Hare and the Tortoise

Written by

Sally Grindley

Published by

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

For Lynn Rowland with many thanks – SG
For Tiziana – JB-B



First published in Great Britain in 1999 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
38 Soho Square, London, W1V 5DF
First paperback edition published in 2000
This paperback edition published in 2005

Text copyright © Sally Grindley 1999
Illustrations copyright © John Bendall-Brunello 1999
The moral right of the author and illustrator has been asserted

All rights reserved
No part of this publication may be reproduced or
transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying
or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher

A CIP catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library
ISBN 0 7475 4664 9 (paperback)
ISBN 0 7475 3650 3 (hardback)

Designed by Dawn Apperley

Printed in Singapore by Tien Wah Press

5 7 9 10 8 6 4

AESOP'S FABLES

The Hare and the Tortoise

And Other Animal Stories



Sally Grindley and John Bendall-Brunello

The Hare and the Tortoise

One hot, sunny day, a hare was lazing on a grassy bank when he saw a tortoise walking slowly by. The hare snickered, then he sniggered, then he snorted, then he couldn't help himself and burst out laughing – '*TEE-HEE-HEE! HA-HA-HA!*'

The tortoise stopped and gazed at the hare. 'What's so funny?' she asked. 'It's your feet,' said the hare. 'They're so short – *TEE-HEE-HEE!* And you're so slow – *HA-HA-HA!* Do you ever arrive where you're going?'

The tortoise blinked thoughtfully and said, 'I may be slow, but I will beat you in a race.'

The hare couldn't believe his great big ears and burst out laughing again. 'What are you going to do, grow wings?' he giggled. 'All right, we'll meet here tomorrow morning. Make sure you eat your spinach – *HA-HA-HA!*'

With that, the hare leapt away to show how fast he was while the tortoise plodded on her way.

Bright and early the next morning, the hare and the tortoise lined up to begin their race. *READY, STEADY, GO!*

The hare shot off – *WHOOSH!* – and was quickly out of sight.

The tortoise set off at her usual pace – *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD.* She didn't stop to eat, she didn't stop to drink, she didn't stop to rest, she kept on going – *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD.*

The hare stopped to eat. The hare stopped to drink. The hare stopped to rest. 'Plenty of time,' he said. '*HA-HA-HA!* A tortoise can't beat a hare!' – and he soon fell fast asleep.

PLOD, PLOD, PLOD – the tortoise was closing the gap. *SNORE! SNORE!* – the tortoise was passing the hare. *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD* – the tortoise could see the finishing line.

The hare woke up and looked back down the path. 'Plenty of time,' he said. '*TEE-HEE-HEE!* She must be miles behind!'

But who was that in front of him? Whose short feet were crossing the finishing line?

'Wait!' yelled the hare. 'Too late,' said the tortoise, and she plodded on her way.