



STORY: THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE, AN AESOP FABLE

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Note: This story appears on Dianne de Las Casas' audio CD for children *Jump, Jiggle & Jam: A Rhythmic Romp through Story Land* (Story Connection Productions, 2005)

From a far off land neither here nor there
I bring you the fable of the Tortoise and the Hare

Hare was very conceited and thought that he was the most handsome animal in all of the forest. He would often gaze into the mirror and say, "I am so handsome. Look at my lovely long ears, my pretty pink nose, and my beautiful buck teeth!" He also thought that he was the fastest animal in all of the forest.

One day, Hare overheard a group of turtles talking. They said, "Cousin Tortoise has never lost a race. He always wins!"

"Ha!" scoffed Hare, "We'll see about that!" He marched over to the group of turtles and said, "Everyone knows that I am the fastest animal in all of the forest. Tell your cousin Tortoise that I challenge him to a race!"

The next day, Tortoise met Hare in the clearing. He said, "Hello, I am Tortoise. Are you ready to race?"

Hare answered with a laugh, "Of course I am because I am the fastest animal in all of the forest. Prepare to eat my dust!"

Tortoise and Hare lined up. Raccoon held her tail up in the air and said, "On your mark, ready, ready, go!"

Hare took off and left Tortoise in a cloud of dust. Meanwhile...

Tortoise never wavered from the race
He kept on going at a steady pace

Hare looked behind and saw that he was far ahead of Tortoise. He decided he had time for a little break. So he stopped by the side of the road and pulled out his mirror. He said, "Just look at me. So handsome. Not a hair out of place." As Hare admired himself, he saw another reflection in the mirror. It was... Tortoise! You see...

Tortoise never wavered from the race
He kept on going at a steady pace

Hare yelled, “Oh no! I gotta go!” And he took off faster than a speeding bullet. Hare looked behind and saw that he was way ahead of Tortoise. He decided that he had time for a little snack So he stopped at McDonald’s and ordered large fries and a strawberry shake. He was sipping his shake when he saw... Tortoise! You see...

Tortoise never wavered from the race
He kept on going at a steady pace

Hare yelled, “Oh no! I gotta go!” and he took off faster than a tornado. Hare ran for a while. Then he looked behind and saw that he was way, way ahead of Tortoise. There was no sign of Tortoise at all! Hare decided that he had time for a little... nap. He sat down by the side of the road, under the shade of a tall tree and began to snooze. (snoring sounds) Meanwhile...

Tortoise never wavered from the race
He kept on going at a steady pace

Hare woke up just in time to see Tortoise approaching the finish line. Hare yelled, “Oh no! I gotta go!” and he took off faster than lightning. But it was too late. Although Hare was close behind, Tortoise crossed the finish line. Tortoise won the race by just a... hare! You see...

Tortoise never wavered from the race
He kept on going at a steady pace

