The Hare and The Tortoise

Once upon a time there was a hare and a tortoise who lived at the foot of a steep hill. It was so high, the top was covered in white fluffy clouds. The hare had long, strong legs. He ran everywhere as fast as his legs could carry him and he could jump higher than any of the other animals in the forest. However, the tortoise had short stubby legs. He trudged everywhere very slowly and never jumped at all.

The hare loved to boast and tease the tortoise. “I’m so fast and you’re so slow, watch me run, off I go!” He would sing as he bounded past the tortoise. One day, because the slow and steady tortoise was tired of hearing him boast, he challenged the hare to a race. The hare accepted the challenge. The Tortoise smiled to himself and sang, “I’m not so fast, but I’ll get there at last.”

Early the next morning, the tortoise woke up and slowly plodded outside. All the animals in the forest gathered eagerly to watch. The hare was doing his warming-up exercises. He bent and stretched and jumped up high. “I’m all ready to race, now just watch my pace!” he announced proudly. As soon as the race started, the hare dashed off into the distance. Suddenly he realised the tortoise was nowhere to be seen so he decided to stop under a twisted shady oak tree to rest. His eyes began to feel very heavy and he slowly drifted off into a deep, deep sleep.

Meanwhile, the tortoise walked and he walked and he walked until he came to the twisted shady oak tree. To his amazement, he discovered the hare fast asleep! The tortoise couldn’t believe his luck. He knew this was his chance to win the race! Without disturbing the hare, he plodded on through the forest. Eventually, he reached the winning post. All the other animals cheered loudly but were surprised that the hare hadn’t won. “Where’s the hare?” they questioned.

A while later, the hare arrived looking flustered. When he learnt that the tortoise had won, he was furious. The fox crept up to him and whispered in his ear. “I hope you’ve learnt your lesson.” After that, the hare always reminded himself, "Don't brag about your lightning pace, for slow and steady won the race!"