

# Fairy Tales: The Tortoise and the Hare

## THEME

This half term we are going to look at different fairy tales and link them to Biblical stories or Christian values. A fairy tales are stories that range from those originating in folk lore to more modern stories defined as literary fairy tales.

Our first is the Tortoise and the Hare. This is one of Aesop's Fables and was written in ancient Greece.

There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of hearing him boast, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, challenged him to a race. All the animals in the forest gathered to watch. Hare ran down the road for a while and then and paused to rest. He looked back at Slow and Steady and cried out, "How do you expect to win this race when you are walking along at your slow, slow pace?"

Hare stretched himself out alongside the road and fell asleep, thinking, "There is plenty of time to relax." Slow and Steady walked and walked. He never, ever stopped until he came to the finish line. The animals who were watching cheered so loudly for Tortoise, they woke up Hare. Hare stretched and yawned and began to run again, but it was too late. Tortoise was over the line. After that, Hare always reminded himself, "Don't brag about your lightning pace, for Slow and Steady won the race!"



## Clip to watch

Find out what is going on in the [world](#) or watch [BBC newsround](#)

*Lord, we place these people and situations before you and ask you to help. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## MEANING

### What does this fairy tale mean?

At first glance, it looks like the meaning of this fairy tale is that slow and steady wins the race, but how can slow and steady win a race? Maybe we need to look deeper at the meaning. It could be that the message is not to be over confident like the hare was? He was convinced he was going to win, and looked foolish when he didn't. Tortoise was brave and took on the challenge to race the hare, knowing that the hare would clearly win. Maybe the real moral behind the story is to using our talents and not just having them?

## BIBLICAL LINK

How can we link this fairy tale to the Bible or Gospel values? Well, our walk here on earth is likened to a race as we read in Hebrews 12. The apostle Paul also referenced this race many times in his epistles to the churches. God's word has much to say about the race we are running even today.

Just as the tortoise kept his eyes firmly fixed ahead of him, may we too keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus Christ. The race marked before us is one that God intends to run with us, but we must keep on persevering. Some days are easier than others for sure. Some days we may need to walk, some days we may need to run, some days we may need to crawl and some days God just carries us. But our perseverance and diligence to keep going and fixing our eyes on Jesus is what will bring us success. He's the One who will see us through to the finish line and beyond.

**And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrew 12:1b-2a**



Sacred time this week can link to the British Value of **individual liberty**. This is because individual liberty is about having self knowledge and self esteem, and knowing our own strengths and abilities. Tortoise is an example of this as he knew his strengths and took on the challenge to win the race!

### Key Questions....

When have you been a Hare?

When have you been a Tortoise?

How does this relate to you?

How does this relate to the world?



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

## DAILY BIBLE READING

## PRAYER

Dear lord,

We ask you to guide us in our every day lives. We pray that you are with us whether we have to run or walk and especially the times when you need to carry us.

**We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**