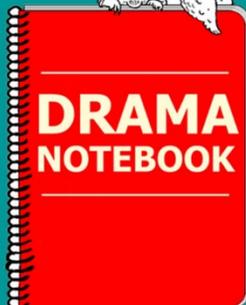
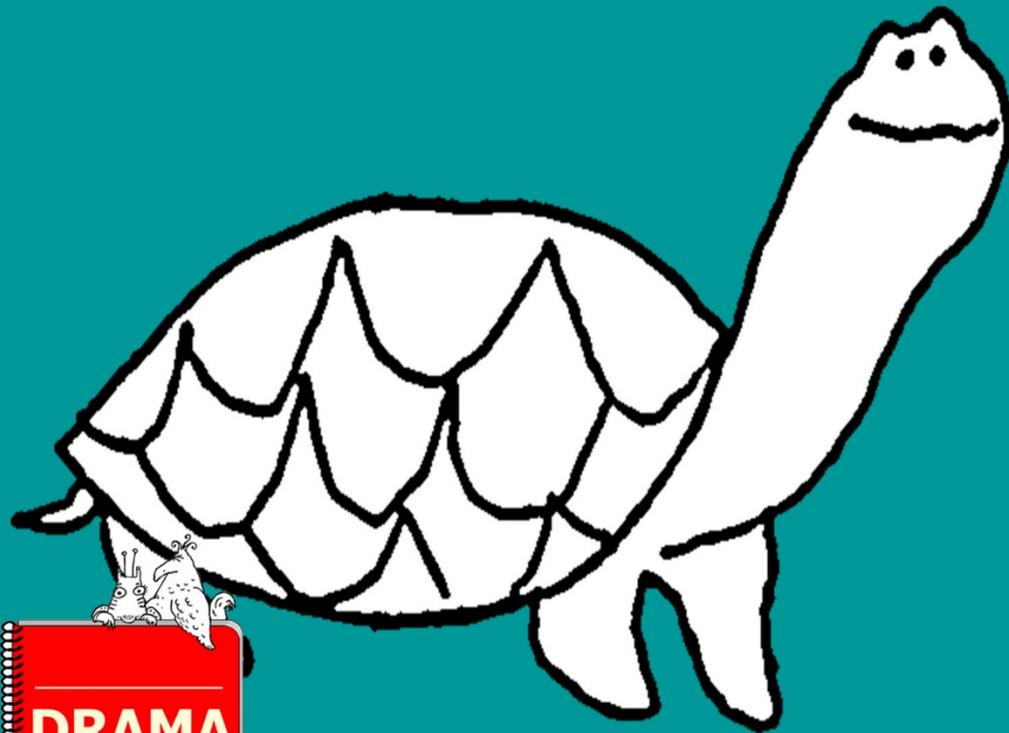


THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

A short script for kids!



© A Drama Notebook Title

Copyright 2018

Published in the United States by Drama Notebook www.dramanotebook.com a division of
Rumplestiltskin Press, Portland Oregon USA
All rights reserved.

No part of this script may be reproduced, stored or introduced into a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the express written permission of both the copyright owner and the publisher of this script.

This script is authorized for individual sale and use only, unless a group license is granted. Please contact the publisher to obtain group licenses for use in after-school organizations, school districts, theatre companies, etc.

The scanning, uploading and distribution of this script via the internet or via any other means without prior permission of the publisher is illegal and punishable by law. Please purchase only authorized electronic editions and do not participate in or encourage electronic piracy of copyrighted materials. Your support of the author's rights is appreciated

About the Author...

Andy Pavey is a commissioned playwright, who writes short plays for Drama Notebook. He is a student who attends UWC-USA. He previously spent nine years with Davenport Junior Theatre, the second-oldest children's theatre in the United States, where he acted in productions, managed the props building, and wrote plays for young actors to perform. In addition to writing, Andy is an avid backpacker!



Thank the Author...

Do you love this play as much as we do? If your group performs this piece, be sure to credit Andy Pavey and Drama Notebook in your program and advertising. You may also wish to make Andy's day by dropping him a line or sending pictures of your production!

Contact Andy at: apavey1@protonmail.com

About the play...



The Tortoise and the Hare is an Aesop's fable in which an arrogant rabbit loses a race to a slow-moving tortoise. The hare feels so confident that he will win, that he takes a nap, allowing the tortoise to cross the finish line while he slumbers.

The story has been used to teach the virtues of working steadily over time rather than acting in haste.

Kids will love this humorous re-telling of the classic fable.

Read the original tale to your group before introducing the script.

Ask!

What is the difference between the two stories?

Why do you think the author added characters and changed the story somewhat? (To make the story more entertaining for the stage.)

What is the moral of the story? Do you agree with the lesson that the story is trying to teach? Why? Why not?



The Tortoise & The Hare

Adapted by Andrew Pavey

CHARACTERS

Announcer 1
Announcer 2
Referee
Dog
Chicken
Squirrel
Hare
Tortoise
Squirrel 2
Squirrel 3

SETTING

A forest.

At rise: the ANNOUNCERS are seated behind a "news desk" of sorts, away from the action. The ANIMALS are stretching out in preparation for the race. Numerous trees and bushes are spread throughout the stage. The ANNOUNCERS talk in an over-the-top newscaster voice.

ANNOUNCER 1

Welcome, one and all, to the seventh annual Forest Sprint. Sponsored by Lucky Ants! A special cereal for the special armadillo in your life.

ANNOUNCER 2

Our course today will take runners through scary forests, up big hills, and back to the finish line.

ANNOUNCER 1

It's going to be a hard race, but each runner is confident. Let's meet them now.

DOG

Ruff. Ruff. They told me there was a bone at the end of the race. Ruff. That bone is mine.

CHICKEN

I'm a chicken, but I'm not *chicken!* I'm the bravest animal in the forest!

SQUIRREL (*talks extremely quickly*)

Hello everyone, I'm the hamster, and I must say, it's an honor to be here, it really is. I'd like to thank my mother, my father, my sister, my two cousins, and all the squirrels cheering me on at home. Wish me luck! Oh, and also, thanks to -

DOG (*pointing*)

SQUIRREL!

EVERYONE looks at the dog.

DOG

Sorry. I don't know what came over me.

HARE

I'm the hare, and I can bounce faster than anyone here! No problemo!

TORTOISE (*talks extremely slowly*)

I'm the tortoise. I'm just trying my best.

HARE

I hate to break it to you, buddy, but there's no way you are going to win. I mean, watch me hop!

The HARE hops in a circle. EVERYONE (except the HARE) claps in amazement. The HARE bows.

ANNOUNCER 2

Did you see those hops, Barbara?

ANNOUNCER 1

Of course, I did, Bobby. And boy, were they impressive.

REFEREE

Okay, settle down, settle down! You know the rules. Stay on the race-track. No wandering off in the woods by yourself. That's it. Good luck.

The ANIMALS get ready to run.

REFEREE

On your marks, get set –

HARE

Go!

The HARE runs offstage at full speed. The other ANIMALS look at the REFEREE, who shrugs and blows the whistle. The DOG, CHICKEN, and SQUIRREL run, and the TORTOISE walks painstakingly slowly.

ANNOUNCER 1

Uh, tortoise? Would you mind picking up the pace?

ANNOUNCER 2

We need to do a scene change, so...

The TORTOISE continues walking slowly as ever. The ANNOUNCERS shrug and the lights fade (except on the ANNOUNCERS). The TORTOISE exits.

ANNOUNCER 2

Let's take a look at the front of the pack! Leading the race is, of course, the Hare, followed by the chicken and the squirrel!

The CHICKEN, the SQUIRREL, and the HARE enter and run around the set. The director can decide how this is staged.

CHICKEN

Come on, squirrel, we have to catch up!

SQUIRREL

What do we do? He's too fast!

HARE

You're right. I'm fast, but I'm also clever!

The HARE drops a handful of seeds behind him and runs offstage. The CHICKEN is entranced by the seeds and runs over to pick them up and pantomime "eating" them.

SQUIRREL

Nooooooooo! Not the seeds!

As soon as the CHICKEN "eats" a seed, she is transformed into a normal, non-talking chicken.

CHICKEN

Bawk. Bawk bawk. Bawk bawk!

The SQUIRREL shakes the CHICKEN by the shoulders.

SQUIRREL

You're in a race! Wake up! Start running! Hurry!

CHICKEN

Bawk! Bawk bawk. Bawk.

SQUIRREL

You're useless... It's time for me to take matters into my own hands.

The SQUIRREL charges offstage. Lights down, except on the ANNOUNCERS.

ANNOUNCER 1

Impressive moves by the hare, wouldn't you say, Bobby?

REFEREE

I'm not sure that was entirely fair, but if you say so...

ANNOUNCER 2

The race is heating up, but it's not over yet. The squirrel, the dog, and the hare are neck-and-neck!

Lights up. SQUIRREL, DOG, and HARE enter, running.

SQUIRREL

You cheater! You won't get away with this!

DOG

Ruff. I don't really like all of this fighting. Ruff. I just want my bone. Ruff.

HARE

You know something worse than cheating, squirrel?

SQUIRREL

What?

HARE

In-laws!

SQUIRREL 2 and SQUIRREL 3 enter and envelop the SQUIRREL in a group hug. The SQUIRREL makes a terrified face at the audience. The DOG and the HARE run out of sight.

SQUIRREL 2

Junior, good to see you!

SQUIRREL 3

How's our daughter doing? Are you treating her well?

SQUIRREL

Yes, yes, fantastic, I love my in-laws, whatever. But I have to go, I'm running a race right now!

SQUIRREL 3

Nonsense! That Harold guy called us up and said you wanted to take us to dinner!

SQUIRREL 2

Yeah, at that nice new Papa Acorn's place down the road. We're buying!

SQUIRREL

His name wasn't Harold, he's a hare. You know, a rabbit?

SQUIRREL 3

The details aren't important, son. What's important is love. And family. Wouldn't you agree?

SQUIRREL

Um, yes? I guess? How can you NOT agree with those things?

SQUIRREL 2

Papa Acorn's it is! Let's go.

SQUIRREL 2 and SQUIRREL 3 drag the SQUIRREL offstage, and away from the race. The lights fade.

ANNOUNCER 1

Another strategic move by the hare! And let me just say - it was executed BEAUTIFULLY.

ANNOUNCER 2

No question about it, Bob. The race is thinning out - only two animals to go.

REFEREE

Actually, if I might add, there are three contestants remaining. The hare, the dog, and the tortoise.

ANNOUNCER 1

I appreciate that you're trying to make this seem like a fair race, but it's clear to everyone at this point that the tortoise is a complete joke.

ANNOUNCER 2

Let's check in with our two racers now.

The lights shift. The HARE and the DOG are slowing down drastically, but they're still jogging along.

HARE

Give it up, my canine friend. You can't outrun me!

DOG

Ruff. Just in it for the bone. Ruff ruff. Just in it for the bone.

HARE

Just in it for the bone, eh?

The HARE finds a stick on the ground, stops, and holds it high above the DOG's head.

DOG

Ruff ruff! That works! Ruff! I'm not particular!

The HARE throws the stick offstage, and the DOG bounds after it. The HARE slumps down against a tree stump to rest.

HARE

Wow. I ran so fast, no way anyone's catching up to me now. I think I'll shut my eyes for a brief second. By the time the dog finishes finding that stick, and the chicken snaps out of that weird trance, and the squirrel gets finished being lectured by the in-laws, I'll be able to WALK to the finish line. Easy peasy.

The HARE closes his eyes for an instant and immediately falls asleep, snoring loudly.

ANNOUNCER 1

Well well well, that's a bold move by the hare!

ANNOUNCER 2

As much as I'd like to watch the hare sleep for the next hour, we need to turn our attention to something far less exciting: the tortoise is catching up. Kind of.

The TORTOISE walks in, even slower than before (think slow motion), but remaining cheerful.

TORTOISE *(talking slowly)*

Slow and steady wins the race.

ANNOUNCER 2

Gag. What a pushover.

TORTOISE

Slow and steady wins the race.

As the next line is said, the TORTOISE inches closer to the finish line.

ANNOUNCER 1

I think the turtle is delusional, Bob. Wait - wait, what's happening - it's happening slowly but it's happening!

ANNOUNCER 2

Unbelievable! The tortoise is kind of getting there! He's just a few steps from the goal!

The TORTOISE is walking painfully slowly at this point.

REFEREE

C'mon, tortoise, surely it's possible to move a little faster than this!

TORTOISE (*gesturing towards the HARE*)

I'd rather not end up like that guy, thank you very much.

The TORTOISE passes the "finish line" as the hare continues sleeping. Some sort of "sports" music plays - perhaps the ESPN theme. EVERYONE rushes out, claps, and cheers, surrounding the TORTOISE.

ANNOUNCER 1

Unbelievable! Unbelievable! The winner of the Forest Sprint is.. THE TORTOISE!

ANNOUNCER 2

I'm stunned. I'm absolutely stunned.

The HARE wakes up and looks around, confused.

HARE

What happened? Did I win? I sometimes sleepwalk so I wouldn't be surprised.

CHICKEN

Bawk. Bawk bawk. Bawk. Bawk bawk bawk!

SQUIRREL

We shouldn't have laughed at you, tortoise! You were right all along.

DOG

Ruff. Where's the bone? Ruff. I was promised a bone. Ruff ruff ruff. Scammers. Ruff.

TORTOISE

Well, I guess my motto really was true in the end.

ALL (*except TORTOISE*)

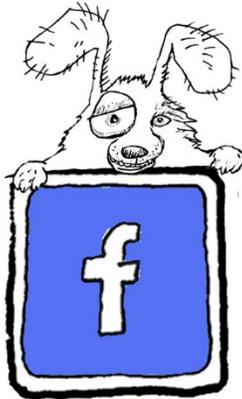
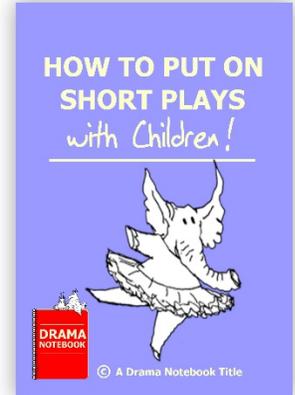
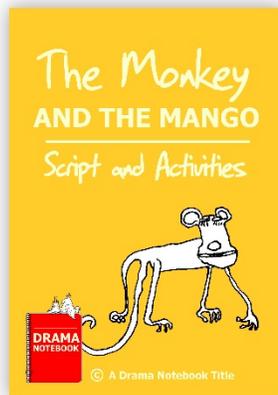
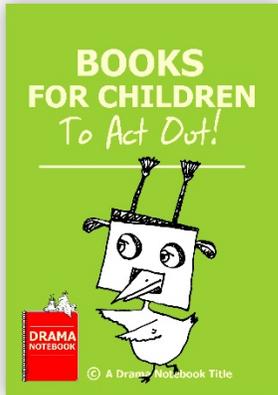
Slow and steady wins the race.

TORTOISE

Actually, my motto is "run as fast as you can and hope you get lucky." But I guess the other one is fine too.

CURTAIN

You may also like...



**Like this script?
Leave a comment
on our Facebook
page.**

**Have a question?
Email Janae at
janea@dramanotebook.com**

