![C:\Users\MoellerAl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\N7KLB32U\MC900441417[1].wmf]()**The Tortoise and the Hare**

1) The Hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals.

2) “I have never yet been beaten,” said he, "when I put forth my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me. I am the best.”

3) The Tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge. I am tired of your bragging. I am confident that I can beat you.”

4) “That is a good joke," said the Hare; "I could dance around you all the way. You will never be able to speed past me. You will not get the victory."

5) “Keep your boasting till you've beaten me,” answered the Tortoise. "Shall we race? I know that I can defeat you.”

![C:\Users\MoellerAl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\65U9ODTJ\MC900324466[1].wmf]()6) So a course was fixed. The path was curved and the ground was rocky. The Hare darted speedily almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, believing that the Tortoise could never catch him, lay down by some bushes at the top of a hill to have a nap. The Tortoise never for a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course.

7) When the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning post. The Hare ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. He saw the Tortoise had reached the goal. He was very surprised. He had never lost a race before.

8) “Ha, ha,” laughed the Tortoise’s friend the owl. “I knew that Tortoise would win. Tortoise is strong and steady. You are fast but you don’t take time to think. I do. That’s why people say owls are wise birds.”