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Opening extract from
**The Hare and the
Tortoise**

Written by
Sally Grindley

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*For Lynn Rowland with many thanks – SG
For Tiziana – JB-B*



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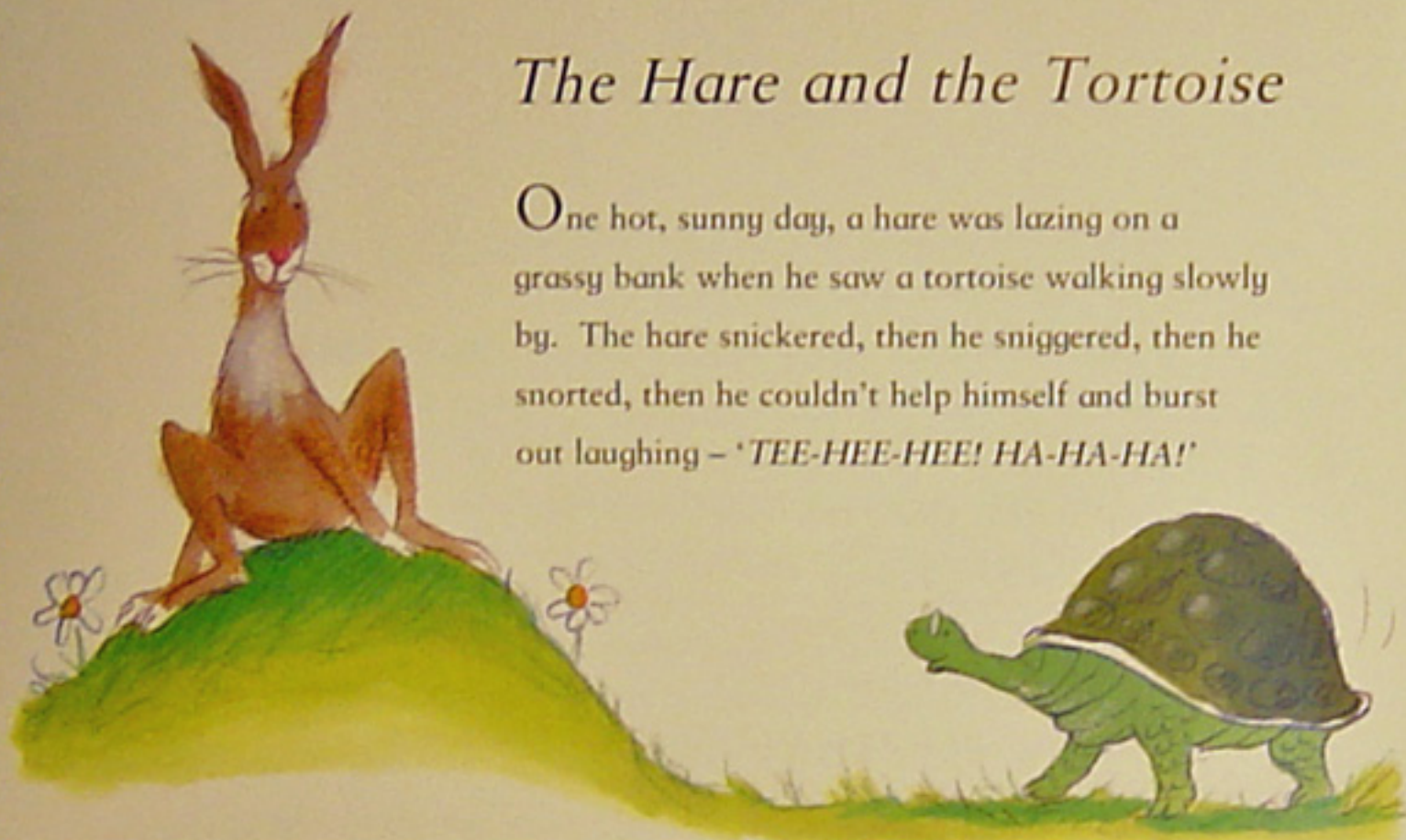


Sally Grindley and John Bendall-Brunello



The Hare and the Tortoise

One hot, sunny day, a hare was lazing on a grassy bank when he saw a tortoise walking slowly by. The hare snickered, then he sniggered, then he snorted, then he couldn't help himself and burst out laughing – 'TEE-HEE-HEE! HA-HA-HA!'



The tortoise stopped and gazed at the hare. 'What's so funny?' she asked. 'It's your feet,' said the hare. 'They're so short – TEE-HEE-HEE! And you're so slow – HA-HA-HA! Do you ever arrive where you're going?'

The tortoise blinked thoughtfully and said, 'I may be slow, but I will beat you in a race.'

The hare couldn't believe his great big ears and burst out laughing again. 'What are you going to do, grow wings?' he giggled. 'All right, we'll meet here tomorrow morning. Make sure you eat your spinach – HA-HA-HA!'

With that, the hare leapt away to show how fast he was while the tortoise plodded on her way.



Bright and early the next morning, the hare and the tortoise lined up to begin their race. *READY, STEADY, GO!*

The hare shot off – *WHOOSH!* – and was quickly out of sight.

The tortoise set off at her usual pace – *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD.*

She didn't stop to eat, she didn't stop to drink, she didn't stop to rest, she kept on going – *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD.*



The hare stopped to eat. The hare stopped to drink. The hare stopped to rest. 'Plenty of time,' he said. 'HA-HA-HA! A tortoise can't beat a hare!' – and he soon fell fast asleep.

PLOD, PLOD, PLOD – the tortoise was closing the gap. *SNORE! SNORE!* – the tortoise was passing the hare. *PLOD, PLOD, PLOD* – the tortoise could see the finishing line.

The hare woke up and looked back down the path. 'Plenty of time,' he said. 'TEE-HEE-HEE! She must be miles behind!'

But who was that in front of him? Whose short feet were crossing the finishing line?

'Wait!' yelled the hare. 'Too late,' said the tortoise, and she plodded on her way.

