

Name _____

Date _____

English - "Once Upon a Time" – Story Telling

There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of hearing him boast, 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 stopped to rest. He stretched himself out alongside the road and fell asleep, thinking, "The tortoise is so slow there is plenty of time to relax."

The tortoise kept on walking, slowly and steadily. He walked and walked without stopping 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. So the Hare learnt an important lesson. It is not always the fastest who win the race, but those who keep on trying to the end.

This story is supposed to have been written by a Greek slave and storyteller called Aesop in the 6th century BC. That is about 2600 years ago! The story and many of Aesop's other fables are still told all over the world today.

From the beginning of time, story telling has been used not only to entertain, but also to pass on our history and to try to explain where we came from. Every culture has its own stories, myths and legends that have been passed on from generation to generation. Imagine being one of the excited children, sitting around the campfire under the stars thousands of years ago, waiting for the storyteller to begin his tale! These storytellers used their voices, their expressions and their gestures to make the stories interesting. Sometimes they even acted out the story as they told it.

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English - "Once Upon a Time" – Story Telling (Cont'd)

After people learned to write, and then to print what was written, many of these stories were written down, just like Aesop's fables. Today, we have many ways of sharing stories – books, TV, and DVD's – but none of them can beat a good storyteller. In 1970, a group of people started worrying that the art of story telling might be lost to us. Today, all over the world, there are people who make a living out of telling stories and teaching others how to do so too.

Perhaps you think that you don't need to be taught how to tell a story? It is true that anyone can tell stories; we do all the time, don't we? There are some important things to remember if you want to tell a story really well. First, you have to really know the story, although you can, and should, use your own words to tell it. Second, just like the storytellers of long ago, you have to learn to use your voice, your expressions and your gestures to make your story come alive for your listeners. Can you do that?

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English - "Once Upon a Time" – Story Telling Questions

A: How well do you remember the story?

Fill in the missing words without looking at the story again.

There once was a _____ hare who bragged about how _____ he could run. Tired of hearing him _____, the _____ 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 stopped to _____. He stretched himself out alongside the road and _____ thinking, "The tortoise is so _____ there is plenty of time to relax." The tortoise kept on walking, _____ and _____. He walked and walked without _____ until he came to the finish line. The animals who were watching _____ so loudly for Tortoise, they _____ Hare. Hare stretched and yawned and began to run again, but it was _____ Tortoise was over the line. So the Hare learnt an important lesson. It is not always the _____ who win the race, but those who keep on _____ to the end.

B: Tell the story

Now read the fable again and in pairs, take turns telling the story. Ask your friend how well you did. Here is a table, called a matrix, on which you can draw either a smiley face or a sad face to show how well you think you told the story:

Names	I knew the story well	I used my voice well	I used facial expressions well	I used gestures well

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English - "Once Upon a Time" – Story Telling Answers

Activity A

1. speedy
2. fast
3. boast
4. tortoise
5. rest
6. fell
7. asleep
8. slow
9. slowly
10. steadily
11. cheered
12. woke
13. up
14. too
15. late
16. fastest
17. trying

Activity B

The children should rate their own performances after discussion with their partners.