

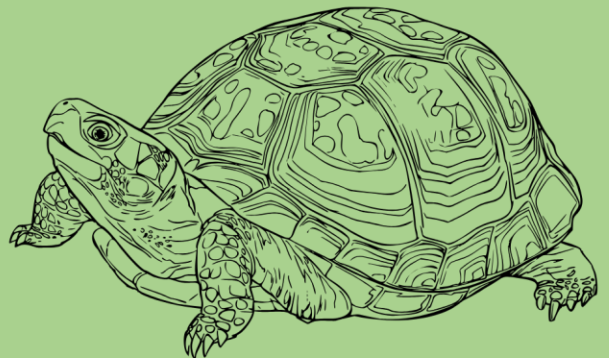


READER'S THEATRE

The Turtle and the Agouti



CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION



INTRODUCTION

In this story adaptation based on Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare", Agouti brags that he can win any race. When Turtle challenges him, the overconfident Agouti takes a nap and consequently loses the race.

CHARACTERS

- ❖ Narrator
- ❖ Agouti
- ❖ Turtle
- ❖ Starter

PRESENTATION SUGGESTIONS

Perform this story for your family and friends! Readers may stand or sit in front of their audience at home or perform the story via video call. To involve more students, a second set of characters may pantomime the fable in front of the readers.

PROPS

Consider giving Agouti a set of small handmade animal ears and tennis shoes. Turtle could wear padded clothes and boots to suggest heaviness. The Starter could wear a giant cardboard stopwatch around the neck.

DELIVERY

Agouti speaks boastfully and somewhat quickly but clearly. Turtle speaks slowly and carefully. The Starter should have a commanding voice. The audience could be directed to join in with "On your marks. Get Set. GO!" They should also cheer loudly for Turtle at the finish line.

EXTRACT

Students of all ages will be delighted by this presentation of "The Tortoise and the Hare" as adapted by "Auntie V", a.k.a. Virginia Foster. They will strengthen their reading and verbal skills while dramatising the fable in front of family and friends.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

Readers Theatre for Beginning Readers

by Susanne Barchers

ISBN: 1-56308-136-9

Reproducible script pages

SCRIPT

Narrator: Once there was a turtle and an agouti. Agouti did everything fast. He loved to brag about his speed.

Agouti: I am so fast! I have never been beaten in a race. There isn't anyone who can beat me! In fact, no one is brave enough to try!

Turtle: I am brave enough. I will race you.

Agouti: You! That's a joke! I could run circles around you a million times and I would still win the race!

Turtle: You should save your bragging until you've won.

Agouti: OK, let's race!

Narrator: Turtle and Agouti agreed to race on the path that led to the beach. All the other animals lined up to watch the race.

Starter: Quiet! Quiet! It's time for the race. You know the rules. The first one to cross the finish line is the winner. Turtle, are you ready?

Turtle: Yes, I am.

Starter: Agouti, are you ready?

Agouti: Of course! This will be a very quick race!

Starter: *(With audience)* On your marks. Get set. **GO!**

Narrator: Turtle got off to a slow, but steady, start. Agouti left a trail of dust behind as he raced down the path.

Turtle: Oh, no! Look at Agouti go. I shouldn't have been so brave but there is no going back, only forward.

Narrator: Turtle kept on going, hardly lifting her head to look down the path. Meanwhile, Agouti stopped to look back for Turtle. He waited and waited but she didn't show up.

Agouti: This is so boring! I think I'll take a little nap. Turtle won't get here for hours!

Narrator: Turtle kept on going while Agouti kept on napping. Finally, Turtle neared the finish line. Her friends began to cheer. *(audience starts cheering)*.

Agouti: What? What is all that noise? It must be time to finish the race. *(audience stops cheering)*.

Narrator: But it was too late for Agouti. Turtle crossed the finish line just as Agouti came into sight. As the animals cheered, Turtle had only one thing to say to Agouti.

Turtle: Steady pace, wins the race!

