

### **The Tortoise and the Hare**

Right after the triumph of the tortoise in the last race, the hare has learnt his lesson. The unbelievable results of the match and their experience has spread to all the ears in the jungle. The tortoise and the hare become friends and they go for a run every day. As the Summer Holiday's Run, which is a newly organized competition to celebrate this lovely holiday, is around the corner, they go training more frequently than usual. They want to ensure that they can performance the best and win the champion.

Things have gone very smoothly until one day. A hedgehog family arrives in the jungle. All the animals are more than excited to have new faces to become part of the family. They can't wait to welcome the new family with open arms. Without hesitation, once the hedgehogs step into the entrance of the wood, all animals rush towards them and greet them fervently. The newcomers are soon surrounded by flocks with joy. All of a sudden, one of the hedgehogs aimlessly shoots out sharp spines from his back. All the surrounding animals disperse at once and run away as fast as they can. They are all astonished by his unfriendly act. Some innocent animals are injured and scared horribly.

Soon, the attack of the hedgehogs becomes the talk of the jungle. It grabs the attention of both the tortoise and the hare. They finally take the plunge to hold a meeting with the hedgehogs and see if they can figure out what their purpose is and provide any help.

However, none of the hedgehogs shows up in the end at the meeting venue. As the tortoise and the hare are contemplating the next step they should carry out, they discover an envelope pinned onto a tree with a spine. The hare jumps up and takes it down effortlessly. Then they start reading the letter together.

It isn't simply a letter. It is a gauntlet! The hedgehogs know that there will be an upcoming running competition and they want to challenge the tortoise and the hare in front of the whole village in the wood. The worst part is that if the tortoise and the hare lose in the race, the authority of the jungle will go to their hands. On the contrary, if the hedgehogs lose to them, they will apologize and leave the forest and never come back.

In the following days, the tortoise and the hare further increase their daily training hours in order to demonstrate their best performance in the race. No matter how terrible the weather is, they insist on training persistently. Even though sometimes they are already exhausted enough and have reached their limit, they still continue practising. To cope with those troublesome hedgehogs, they must figure out a brand-new, effective strategy so that the peace of their homeland can be retrieved.

The sun rises from the east and is now hanging above all the competitors and audience. It is blazing hot outside there. All the animals are sweating like pigs, not to mention those intense participants who are warming themselves up and brace for the race to begin. It is definitely not unfamiliar for the tortoise and the hare this time, however, the fate of the whereabouts of the jungle is in their court now. They must stand against the hedgehogs dauntlessly and fight for everyone's safe home.

"Three, two, one.....Beep!" As the judge whistles, the animal competitors set off and begin their arduous journey in the following hours. Unexpectedly, the hedgehogs are ahead of the pack at an incredible speed. They are so fast that other animals can be told by the strong wind generated when the hedgehogs pass by. Realizing they have already been lagging behind in such a short period of time, the animals are in shock, so are the tortoise and the hare. They lock eyes and come up with the same thought. It's time to reveal their true power! They then accelerate to keep up with the

hedgehogs.

Thanks to the extra effort the tortoise and the hare have put in previous training, not long after, they can see the back of the hedgehogs. At the moment before they take the lead back in hand, the hedgehogs despicably shoot out their spines in order to hinder them from passing ahead. The tortoise and the hare have expected this move, which is part of their plan. The tortoise jumps onto the arms of the hare at once, with its indestructible carapace towards the front. In a blink of an eye, the pointed spines are all dodged by the shell impeccably. After rounds of defense, the hare decides to make a breakthrough. It speeds up and runs with its full strength. Ignoring those insidious hedgehogs, the hare, carrying the tortoise on its back sprints towards the finishing line.

Mission accomplished! The hare and the tortoise win the race and celebrate with other animals. Not only do they share the joy of winning the first place, but also express their deep gratitude towards the duo for saving their home. The close bonding between them dawns on the hedgehogs that they mess up with the wrong guys. The hedgehogs have their words and finally leave the forest and never come back ever after.