

Once upon a time, in a field not too far from you, there was an energetic and happy hare and a sleepy tortoise.

The happy hare was called Henry and the sleepy tortoise was called Tom. One day, they had an argument...

"I am the fastest animal in the whole wide world," said Henry. "I'm faster than a cheeky cheetah, a kicking kangaroo and a racing rabbit," he boasted.

"You are so boastful!" sighed Tom.

"That's it," said Henry the hare as he stamped his foot. "I will prove to you that I'm the fastest animal in the whole wide world"



"OK," said Tom the tortoise. "I'll race you then!"

Henry the hare laughed and he laughed and he laughed.

So, a race was arranged for the very next day. All the animals went to cheer the tortoise and the hare on.

"On your marks... Get set... Go!" Called Olly Owl. And the race was off!

Slowly, slowly went Tom the tortoise. Quickly, quickly went Henry the hare and soon he was out of sight.



After a while, Henry the Hare stopped for a rest. He sat down under the tree and was soon fast asleep.

Meanwhile, Tom the tortoise came along slowly enjoying the sun on his shell and taking the odd nibble of grass. On and on and on and on he plodded. He even plodded past Henry the hare who was still snoring under the tree. He plodded on until he came to the finishing line where Olly owl and all the other animals in the field were waiting.

"Well done! Well done! You're the winner!" the animals cried.

All the noise woke Henry the hare up with a start.

"Oh my! What's all that noise?" said Henry the hare as he raced to the finishing line. Unfortunately, when he got there he saw Tom the tortoise with a gold winner's medal around his neck.



"He must have cheated," cried Henry the hare. "Everyone knows I'm faster than him!"

"Tom the tortoise did not cheat," said Olly owl. "He has won fair and square. Slowly and surely, never giving up, Tom passed the finishing line first. Let that be a lesson to you - slow and steady wins the race!"

And from that day on Henry the hare never boasted again.