

## **The Hare and the tortoise**

This is a well-known story, one of Aesop's fables. You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfbSldwLOFE>

Try reading it as a poem:

Hare was proud; he boasted, 'I'm better than the rest,  
I always get a prize, come top in every test.'  
He had few friends, always drove them away.  
He had to win at any cost, it's rather sad to say.

Tortoise was very timid, yet always tried his best  
And even though he worked so hard, came far behind the rest.  
In spite of this he'd loads of friends, was always full of fun.  
He never said a hurtful word - was kind to everyone.

When Sports Day came a race began, they all stood on the line  
The rain poured down, 'twas very cold and hare began to whine.  
Tortoise, though, said nothing; as usual he tried and tried.  
Soon he reached the winning post, Hare's victory he denied.

At last someone had beaten Hare, Tortoise hadn't wasted time.  
Hare, so busy moaning, hadn't seen him cross the line!

Tortoise was a hero and he at last was praised.  
While Hare, who'd lost the race, was totally amazed!  
Tortoise, ever thoughtful, felt sorry for the Hare  
And held out a hand forgivingly, his friendship to declare.

Hare now understood, he wouldn't get the praise  
And Tortoise had revealed to him the error of his ways.  
Tortoise had learned that plodding on would help to see him through  
So we should learn to do our best in all we say and do

### **Think:**

- What is the moral of the story? There are several. Have you heard the expression "If you don't at first succeed, try, try again."?
- Have a think about the main characters. Using a humility 'scale', 0 \_\_\_\_\_ 10, where 0 is very humble indeed and 10 is very proud indeed, place Hare on here at the beginning, in the middle and the end of the story. Do the same for Tortoise. What do you notice? What does this tell us about people's behaviour?

### **Prayer / silent reflection and response:**

Dear God,  
Please be with us in times of weakness.  
Give us the strength to overcome our difficulties.  
Teach us to keep going when things are hard for us.  
Help us not to take our gifts and talents for granted.

**Amen.**

**Sing:** Teach me to dance.... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDyFgNX4es8&list=RDaDyFgNX4es8&index=1>