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Thank you for downloading the Study Guide to go along with the performance presented by Arts On Stage. The last page of this Study Guide is a **Letter to Families** for you to send home with the child that includes information on what they saw to encourage parents to ask their child about the field trip.

Please direct any questions or correspondence (letters to performers from staff and/or students) to Arts On Stage. Make sure you note what performance and we will make sure they get into the right hands.

Contact Information:

email: info@artsonstage.org

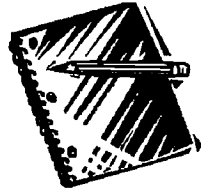
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Presenting Live Professional Theatre Field Trips for Students & Families

THEATRE IV CLASSROOM STUDY GUIDE



"The Tortoise and The Hare"

Book and Lyrics by Douglas S. Jones

Music by Ron Barnett

We at Theatre IV have created this Classroom Study Guide in order to enhance the educational value of our production of "The Tortoise and The Hare." For the teacher, the Guide includes a synopsis of the play, background information on the play's subject matter, and suggested classroom discussion questions and activities. For the students, there is an easily reproducible Student Activities section, featuring projects that can be enjoyed either inside or outside the classroom.

Designed to be both entertaining and educational, "The Tortoise and The Hare" is an original play based on the classic Aesop fable, "The Hare and The Tortoise." In this adaptation, we learn that it isn't important who wins or loses and the value of good friendships.

"The Tortoise and The Hare" was written especially for Theatre IV audiences in kindergarten through fifth grades by Douglas S. Jones with music by Ron Barnett. Each performance of "The Tortoise and The Hare" lasts approximately 50 minutes. Flash photography during the performance is prohibited for the safety of the performers, and videotaping is prohibited due to copyright restrictions.

We encourage both you and your students to send us your comments about "The Tortoise and The Hare." Please address your correspondence to: Theatre IV, 114 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.



Theatre IV is a not-for-profit theatre and gratefully acknowledges support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The Tortoise and The Hare"

SYNOPSIS

This version of "The Tortoise and the Hare" is narrated by a little old man who represents Luck. Not good luck; not bad luck. Just the way things go.

Lawrence the Hare and Egbert the Tortoise are best friends. But poor Egbert is so slow that he is always coming in last whenever they play any game. Normally, this doesn't bother Egbert, but today the friends get into a small argument about which one is faster.

Enter the Fox. This sneaky little animal sees a chance to make some money and sets up a great race between the Tortoise and the Hare. The Fox then tricks all the other animals into betting their money on the Tortoise, so that when the Hare wins (the Fox thinks it's a sure thing) he will be rich.

The race starts. The Hare is off like a shot while poor little Egbert struggles along. Although it looks like Lawrence will win easily, the Fox doesn't want to take any chances. He sets up directions for the finish line that will get Egbert lost in the deep dark woods, which the trusting little tortoise promptly does.

In the woods, he bumps into a silly raccoon and they enjoy a picnic. The Hare, meanwhile, is so confident he'll win that he stops to chat a while with Little Red Riding Hood, narrowly escaping from a muddle-headed hunter.

The Fox shows up to remind the Hare that there's a race going on and he better get moving. But he inadvertently spills the beans about sending Egbert deep into the woods. The Hare, worried about his little friend, turns away from the finish line and heads into the woods to find the Tortoise.

Egbert, meanwhile, has run into Luck. The little old man teaches Egbert that "If anybody wins, it isn't who gets there first. The winner is whoever has the best time getting to the finish line." They have a wonderful time together, singing "This Old Man," and Egbert realizes that even if he's not as fast as the Hare, he is still a good person in his own right.

After some "hare-raising" adventures, Lawrence makes it to the finish line—only to find that at long last, Egbert the Tortoise has finally beaten him at something. But how nice that he lost because he went back to help his friend! "Coming in second or coming in last doesn't matter as much as you think... No one is alone when you have a friend."

"The Tortoise and The Hare"

BACKGROUND: AESOP

Aesop lived from about 620 B.C. to about 560 B.C. . He was born a slave on the Greek island of Samoa, where he became famous as a teller of tales. When he was freed by his master, ladmon, Aesop made his way to the court of Croesus, one of the most powerful and learned kings in all of Greece.

Croesus had surrounded himself with many renowned philosophers and other men of learning, but the humble ex-slave was more than their match —Croesus probably learned more important, useful, common-sense truths from Aesop's homey little animal satires than from all of his philosophers put together. Croesus began to employ Aesop as an ambassador to other cities and countries, where he had much success. His fables carried political messages without seeming overly political. But one of his tales angered the citizens of Delphi so much that they threw him off a tall cliff.

Aesop remained one of the most famous Greeks of all time, and his fables were an indispensable part of any Greek's education. Two hundred years after he died, the citizens of Athens made a statue of him and placed it in front of the statues of the Seven Sages (famous Greek wise men) - implying that Aesop was the wisest of them all.

BACKGROUND: FABLES

A fable is a brief story, told to teach a lesson (the "moral" or "application") in an entertaining way. Fables were often used to show the listeners truths that might have been painful had they been told outright. Fables are usually about animals who have been given human characteristics.

Fables were used in many Eastern countries long before Aesop came along. For centuries, men had been teaching, warning, and influencing each other with stories about animals who behaved like humans. It was natural to compare certain types of people to various animals: the fox is sly, the deer timid, the lion noble, the tortoise slow and patient and the hare quick and heedless!

Aesop's fables were not children's stories when they were originally composed. They were used to influence important kings, business people, military commanders and others. The fables were not written down until over three hundred years after Aesop's death. They were kept alive by those who realized their value and learned them by heart, passing them along from generation to generation.



"The Tortoise and The Hare"

Men, women and children throughout the ages have learned the simple truths of everyday living from Aesop: "Slow and steady wins the race."; "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."; "One man's meat is another man's poison."; and "In union there is strength." Famous stories like "The Fox and the Grapes," "The Crow and the Pitcher," "The Bundle of Sticks," "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse," "The Ant and the Grasshopper," and many others still impart their timeless truths over 2,500 years after they were first told.

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students why they think the Hare lost the race? Would they have stopped and gone back to look for a friend, even if it meant losing?
2. Discuss what the Tortoise learns from the little old man. What does the Hare learn during the play?
3. The Tortoise and the Hare are very different yet they are very good friends. Ask students to think of ways that they are alike and different from their friends.
4. In most fables, the animals in the story have been chosen because they represent a certain "quality" — the Tortoise is slow and patient; the hare is speedy and reckless. What sort of quality does the Fox have. Have students discuss the "qualities" of other animals and ask them what they would have them represent in a fable.
5. This fable teaches two lessons, "If anybody wins, it isn't who gets there first. It's whoever has the best time getting there," and "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." Ask students to discuss these lessons and how they apply to them. Ask students to share examples of times when they may not have won but had a great time anyway.
6. This play is an adaptation of the Aesop fable, "The Hare and the Tortoise." As a class, read aloud and act out another Aesop fable or write a fable. Remember, fables always have a moral to the story. Have students begin by first deciding on the lesson they want to teach and then decide what types of animals might have the qualities which would best help to make the point.

"The Tortoise and The Hare"

ABOUT THEATRE IV

Theatre IV is the second largest theatre for young audiences in the nation and has been offering innovative, educational theatre to young audiences since 1975. Each season, Theatre IV plays are presented to over 800,000 children and adults across the United States. Theatre IV is led by its co-founders: artistic director Bruce Miller and managing director Phil Whiteway. Under their direction, the company has received many awards, including the Sara Spencer Award for "the most outstanding contribution to children's theatre in the Southeastern U.S.," the Concern for Kids Award from the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, and an Official Commendation from Governor Charles S. Robb and Mayor Roy A. West for "leadership in the creation of Black Theatre Month in Virginia."

THEATRE IV CLASSROOM STUDY GUIDE



"The Tortoise and The Hare"

Book and Lyrics by Douglas S. Jones
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Thanks for watching Theatre IV's production of "The Tortoise and The Hare!" We hope that you will share what you've learned about friendship, fair play, and having fun with your family and friends.

If you would like to tell us what you thought about the play, or if you have any questions, please write to us at: Theatre IV, 114 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220.

Here is a list of books we think you might enjoy. Check these books out of your local or school library to read other fables.

Bury My Bones But Keep My Words, African Tales for Retelling by Tony Fairman

Animal Fables from Aesop adapted and illustrated by Barbara McClintock

The Fables of Aesop selected, told anew, and their history traced by Joseph Jacobs

Demi's Reflective Fables retold and illustrated by Demi

The Sound of Flutes and Other Indian Legends translated and edited by Richard Erdoes

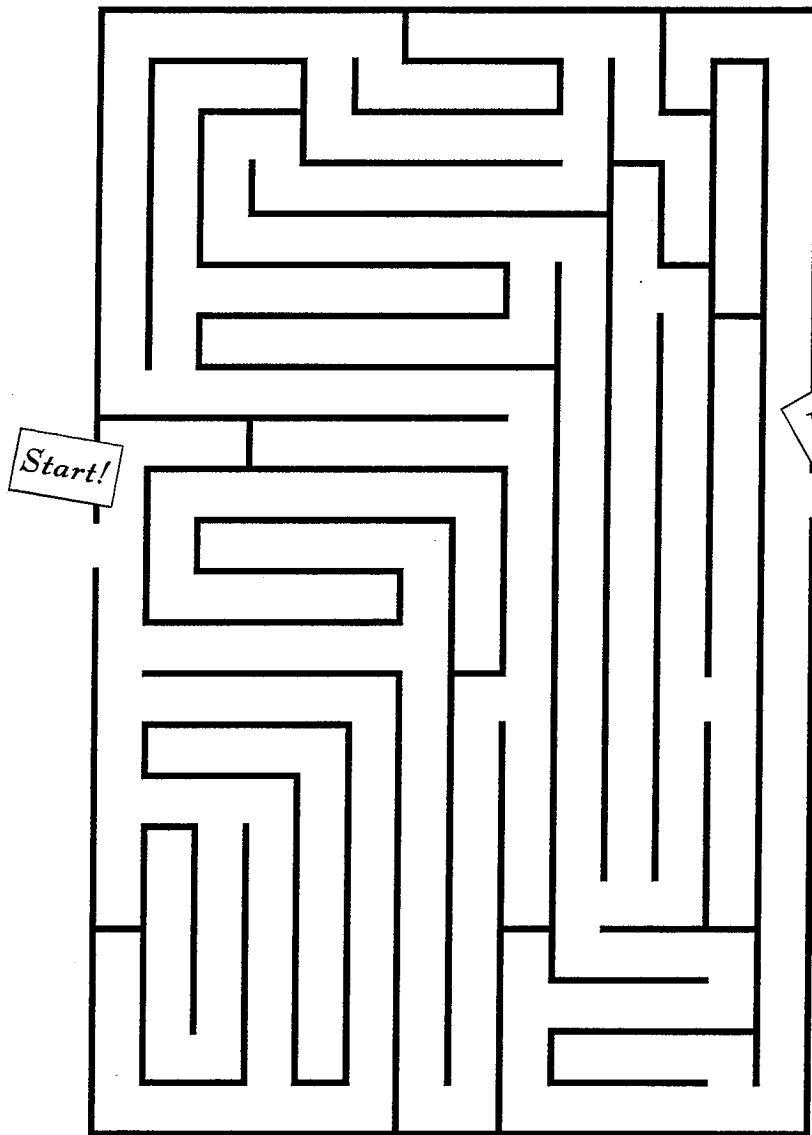
The Little Swineherd and Other Tales by Paula Fox



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

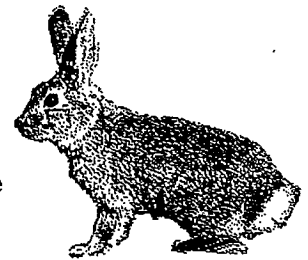
An A-MAZE-ing Race

("The Hare and the Tortoise," a Fable by Aesop)



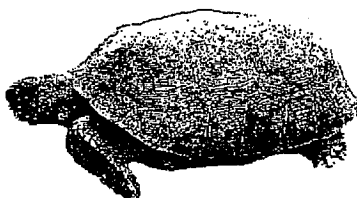
*Help the tortoise and the hare find their way through the maze.
Remember, slow and steady wins the race!*

A Hare was always boasting about his speed and sneering at a Tortoise because he was so slow. One day the Tortoise said, "You may laugh at me, but if we ever had a race I know I could beat you." "Ridiculous!" said the Hare. "Is it?" said the Tortoise. "We shall see. Are you ready?"



They started up at once and, of course, the Hare quickly outran the Tortoise who merely crawled along.

The Hare, in fact, was so far ahead that he treated the whole matter as a joke and lay down. "I'll take a little nap here in the grass," he said to himself, "and when I wake up I'll finish the race far ahead."



Nevertheless, the Hare overslept himself and when he arrived at the finish line, the Tortoise, who had plodded steadily along, was there ahead of him.



“Quick as a Rabbit and Slow as a Turtle” or “The Tortoise and The Hare”

Fables are brief stories that teach a lesson or moral and are usually about animals who have been given human characteristics.
From the list provided, choose the animal or animals which are associated with the human characteristics listed.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Brave as a _____. | bee |
| 2. Busy as a _____, or _____. | beaver |
| 3. Cross as a _____. | ox |
| 4. Dumb as an _____. | wet hen |
| 5. Fat as a _____. | kitten |
| 6. Free as a _____. | pig |
| 7. Gentle as a _____. | goose |
| 8. Loose as a _____. | peacock |
| 9. Mad as a _____, or _____. | fox |
| 10. Nervous as a _____. | bull |
| 11. Proud as a _____. | hornet |
| 12. Quiet as a _____. | lark |
| 13. Silly as a _____. | mouse |
| 14. Sly as a _____. | lion |
| 15. Strong as a _____. | bear |
| 16. Stubborn as a _____. | bird |
| 17. Wise as an _____. | mule |
| 18. Happy as a _____ or _____. | owl |
| | clam |
| | lamb |



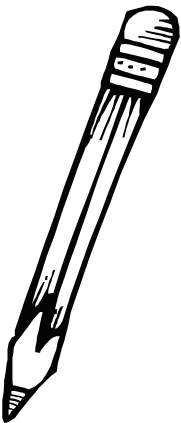
Answers: 1. lion 2. bee/beaver 3. bear 4. ox 5. pig 6. bird 7. lamb 8. goose 9. wet hen/hornet 10. kitten 11. peacock 12. mouse 13. goose 14. fox 15. bull 16. mule 17. owl 18. clam/lark

Dear Family,

Today, I saw a live, professional theatre performance presented by Arts On Stage called, Tortoise and the Hare. The play featured the moral of Aesop's familiar fable, "Slow and steady wins the race" through an action-packed, fun-filled romp thorough forests and meadows filled with a host of hilarious critters! Attending a live performance is very different from watching a television show or a movie. Please ask me about my favorite characters and parts of the play. I would like to tell you all the things I learned and remember best.

Love,

Child's Name



We welcome you and/or your child's comments. Artwork is always appreciated too! Contact information below.



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