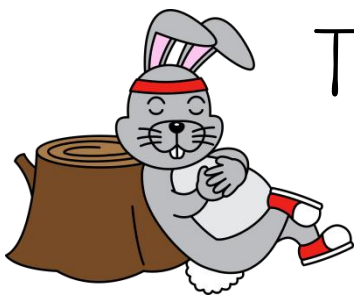


Aesop's Fables

FOR BIG
KIDS!

"The Hare and the Tortoise"



Readers' Theater, perfect for grades 3-5

Written by Martha Hach

Includes script, Close Reading

lesson plan and graphic organizers!



Thanks for purchasing my “Aesop’s Fables for Big Kids – The Hare and the Tortoise!” Aesop was an ingenious storyteller, and students of all ages can enjoy (and learn) from his short stories.

Readers’ Theater allows students to become involved in the story in a deeper level. My plays have generally 4-6 parts, allowing for small group participation. This one has 6 parts.

Lesson included are in the format of Close Reading Lessons, which are aligned with Common Core’s teaching strategies. Instructions are included, as well as graphic organizers that accompany each read.

Some great uses for this play (and other ones in my store) ... perfect for short weeks, days between units, sub plans, end of the school year, or can be sent home for summer reading practice.

So, enjoy these plays with your students! Follow my TpT store for further updates on products and news about sales. 😊

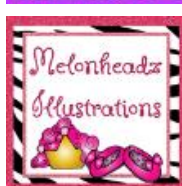
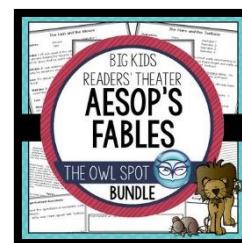
Happy Teaching! - Martha from “The Owl Spot”
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Readers Theater for Big
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The Hare and the Tortoise

Characters:	Hare	Narrator 1
	Tortoise	Narrator 2
	Fox	Narrator 3
		Narrator 4

Narrator 1: Hare and Tortoise planned to meet early one morning to pick vegetables from the garden. Hare was there bright and early with his running shoes on, but there was no sign of Tortoise.

Narrator 2: Finally, along came Tortoise, slowly plodding along. He, too, had his running shoes on, but they didn't look very well worn.

Hare: Well, it's about time that you showed up! Look! I already have a basket of vegetables picked and ready to eat.

Tortoise: I left my house when you left yours this morning, Hare. I saw you close your gate and head for the garden.

Hare: Well, you are just too slow. I bet a snail passed you on your way here.

Tortoise: I'm not slow; I just like to take my time. Did you see the beautiful sunset and all the ribbons of color in the sky this morning?

Hare: No, but I had a goal this morning to get down here to the garden and harvest vegetables.

Narrator 3: Fox, who was also in the garden that morning, overheard their conversation. Normally, he would have snickered at such arguing, but this was Hare and Tortoise. If they didn't get their work done today, Fox wouldn't have any food to steal later on.

Fox: Good morning, Hare! Good morning, Tortoise! What a beautiful day today is.

Hare: There's nothing more beautiful than harvested vegetables, and Tortoise doesn't have any. He's an hour late getting here. We have work to do.

Tortoise: Hare, we have all day. Don't worry about it. You're all in a tizzy over something that really doesn't matter.

Fox: I've seen Tortoise hurry along when he needs to. Once, when that kid over by the apartments tried to catch him to take him home, Tortoise scurried right along the riverbank and got out of the kid's reach really fast!

Hare: I don't believe it! He's just slow. He could NEVER beat me.

Narrator 4: Tortoise was looking so forlorn that Fox knew he had to do something, or there was going to be a splitting of friends. He didn't want to see that happen.

Fox: Why don't the two of you have a race? To see who's the fastest?

Hare: Why, that's a great idea, Fox! That will prove once and for all that I'm faster than Tortoise, and Tortoise is just plain slow.

Tortoise: Why do we need to prove who's faster? Does it really matter anyways?

Narrator 1: But Hare wouldn't think of leaving this alone. He was out to prove to the world that he was right.

Hare: Ok, Fox. You stand way over there by that big maple tree. We will start our race at the garden gate, run around the garden, through Mr. Smith's field, around the pond, and over to you. The first one to reach you wins.

Narrator 2: Poor Tortoise followed Hare's gestures with his eyes, tracking the path they were to run. Tortoise just hung his head and sighed.

Narrator 3: Fox scurried off to the maple tree. Hare and Tortoise readied themselves by the garden gate. Soon, they heard Fox call out.

Fox: Are you ready?

Hare and Tortoise: Ready!

Narrator 4: And off they went. Hare took off at a great speed, leaving poor Tortoise plodding along behind him. Within no time, he was already halfway through Mr. Smith's field.

Hare: Ha! Look at Tortoise back there. He's still rounding the first corner of the garden! He'll never catch up to me. Might as well take a break. There's no need getting all tuckered out over this puny little race.

Narrator 1: So, Hare found a quiet spot to rest. He started to yawn. Remembering that he got up so early this morning, he figured a little nap wouldn't hurt.

Narrator 2: Tortoise was still plodding along. He tried to not notice the smell of the sweet grass and the dance of the butterflies as they fluttered in the sky. But it was so beautiful! Still, he continued on his course.

Narrator 3: After a while, Tortoise caught up to the place where Hare still lay sleeping. He just shook his head and continued on his way.

Tortoise: At least I don't run at such lightning speed that it tires me out so fast!

Narrator 4: Hare didn't wake up until he felt the sun beating down on him, high in the sky. Tortoise had already circled the pond and was heading toward Fox at the maple tree.

Hare: What have I done! How can this be? I can't let Tortoise beat me in this race! Why did I let myself go to sleep?

Narrator 1: Hare sprinted as fast as he could to try to catch up to Tortoise.

Narrator 2: But his efforts were in vain. Tortoise crossed the finish line seconds before Hare caught up to him.

Fox: Tortoise is the winner! You beat Hare! What an amazing race for you, Tortoise! How did you do it?

Tortoise: Well, Fox, I figured slow and easy would get me to the finish line. It looks like slow and easy won the race!

Narrator 3: Hare wasn't listening to anything that Fox and Tortoise were saying. He was off in the meadow, throwing the biggest temper tantrum that you'd ever seen.

Hare: I can't believe I let Tortoise win! It's not fair! Fox should have woken me up! Now Tortoise is going to think he's faster than me. This will never do!

Narrator 4: Eventually, Hare came back and joined his friends once he calmed down. He even extended his hand to Tortoise and congratulated him on a well-run race.

Tortoise: You have nothing to worry about, Hare. I know that you're faster than me. You just let it all get to your head.

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why was Hare upset with Tortoise?
2. How did Fox suggest that his two friends solve their problem?
3. What was Fox's motive for helping his friends?
4. Why did Tortoise win the race?
5. What did Tortoise mean when he said that Hare "let it get to his head"?

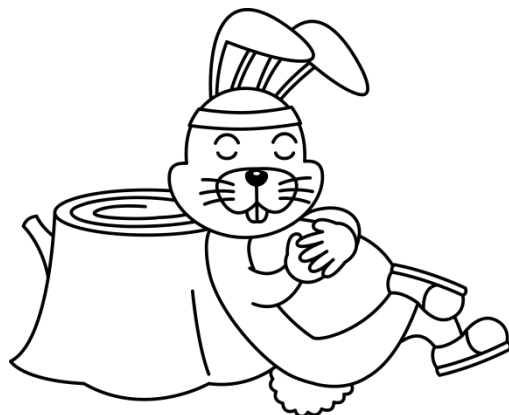
Name _____

Date _____

Aesop's Fable Story Map

Setting	Characters
Title	
Problem	Solution

Moral of the Story:



Name _____

Date _____



What are the choices?

Story Problem:

What choices did the characters have to solve their problem?

What did they choose to do?:

Make an evaluation: Do you think they did the right thing? Why or why not? Go back into the text to support your thinking.

Name _____

Date _____

Planning my own Fable

What character am I going to change? Why?



How will this new character change the fable?

How will the other characters react to this new character?



What lesson will be learned in this fable?