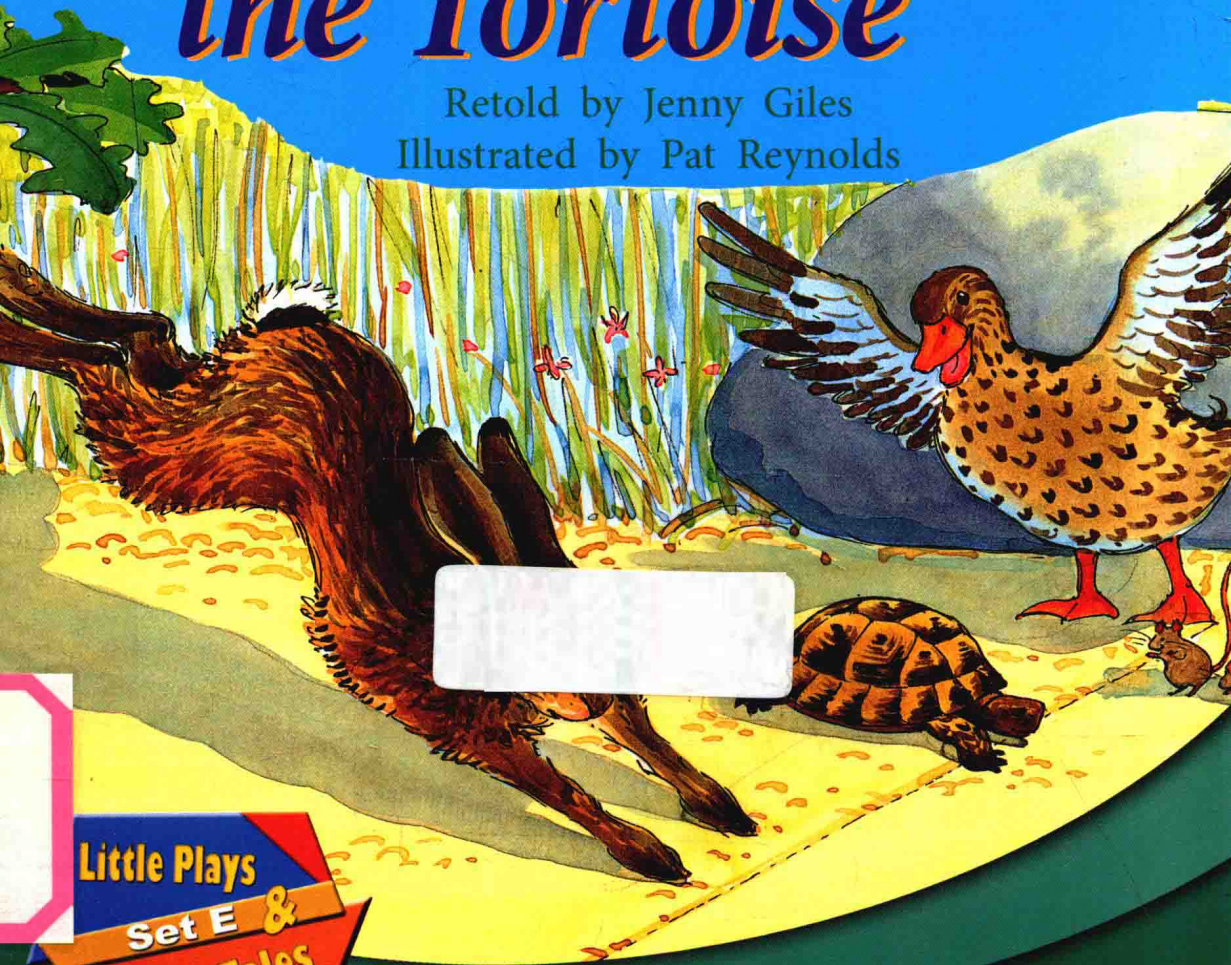


# *The Hare and the Tortoise*

Retold by Jenny Giles  
Illustrated by Pat Reynolds



Little Plays  
Set E &  
Fairy Tales



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NELSON PRICE MILBURN

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#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

体验英语少儿阅读文库. Set E: 戏剧与童话. 第7级: 全6册 / 刘道义主编. -- 北京: 高等教育出版社, 2013.6

ISBN 978-7-04-037441-4

I. ①体… II. ①刘… III. ①英语—阅读教学—初中—教学参考资料 IV. ①G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2013)第123404号

本书如有缺页、倒页、脱页等质量问题, 请到所购图书销售部门联系调换。

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物料号 37441-004

策划编辑 洪志娟 责任编辑 曹臻珍

封面设计 杨立新 版式设计 杨立新

责任校对 曹臻珍 责任印制 朱学忠

出版发行 高等教育出版社

社址 北京市西城区德外大街4号

购书热线 010—58581118

免费咨询 800—810—0598

网址 <http://www.hep.com.cn>

<http://www.cfo.com.cn>

网上订购 <http://www.landaco.com>

邮政编码 100120

电话 010—58581046

印刷 北京信彩瑞禾印刷厂

开本 787×1092 1/16

印张 2

字数 18 000

版次 2013年6月第1版

印次 2013年6月第1次印刷

图字: 01-2013-3600号

PM Library (Animal Facts & Traditional Tales and Plays), PM Oral Literacy and PM Writing  
Nelson AUS

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Once upon a time,  
some animals lived near a big meadow.  
Every day, they would meet together,  
and Hare would come jumping along  
to join them.





Hare would dance and **prance** through the long grass, telling them all what a fine fellow he was.

“I am the best runner in the land,” he would **boast**.

“No one could win a **race** against me.”

The animals always turned away from Hare and took no **notice** of him.





But one hot afternoon,  
Tortoise came **crawling** slowly out  
from behind his rock.

“I am tired of listening to your boasting,”  
said Tortoise,  
“so I will give you a race, Hare.”





“You!” laughed Hare.

“Why, you are the slowest animal in the land.

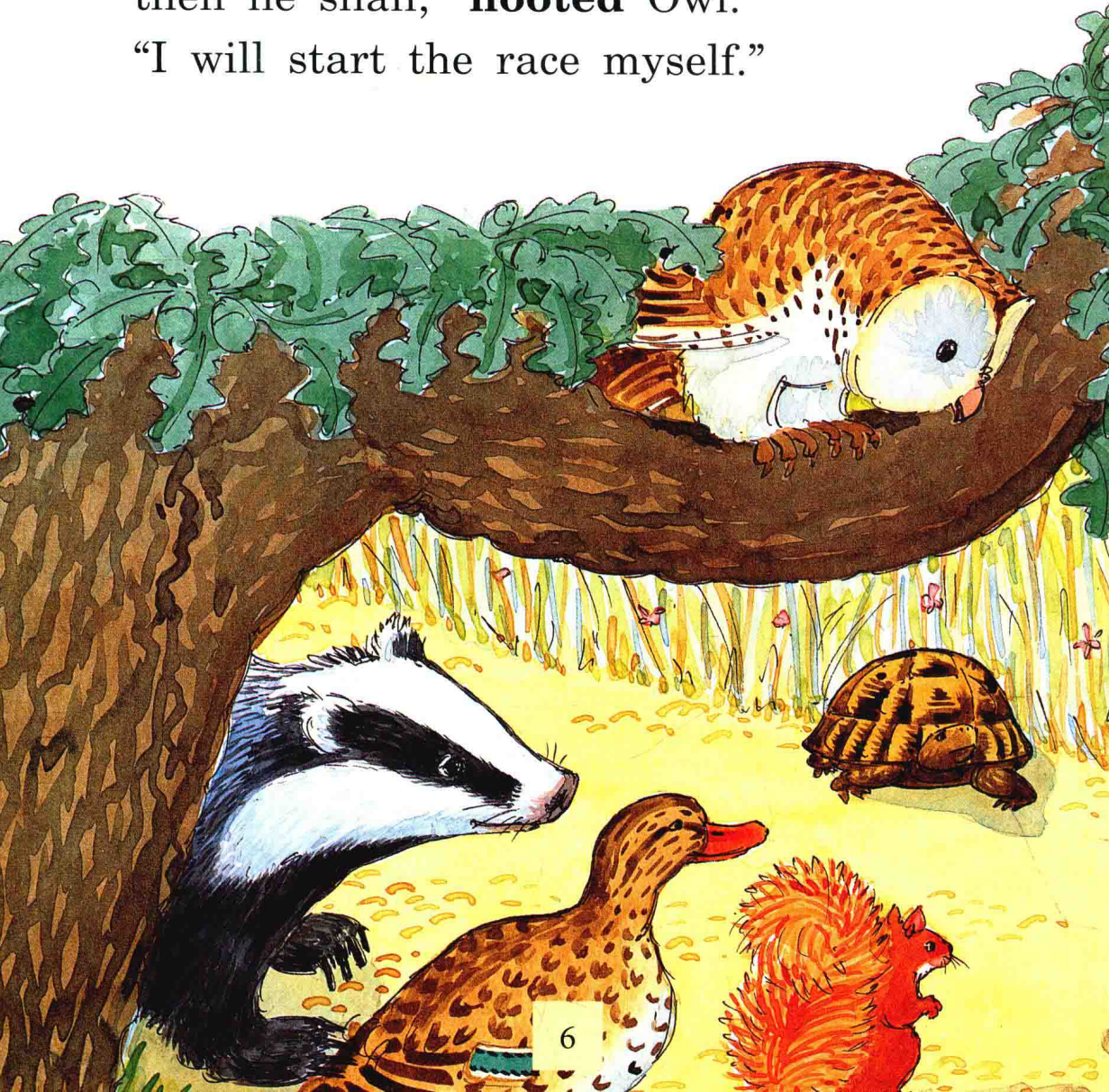
What sort of race would that be?”

“A race like any other race,” said Tortoise,  
“and it can **take place** whenever you like.”





The animals all **cheered**,  
and their noise awoke the **wise** old Owl.  
“If Tortoise wants to race Hare,  
then he shall,” **hooted** Owl.  
“I will start the race myself.”



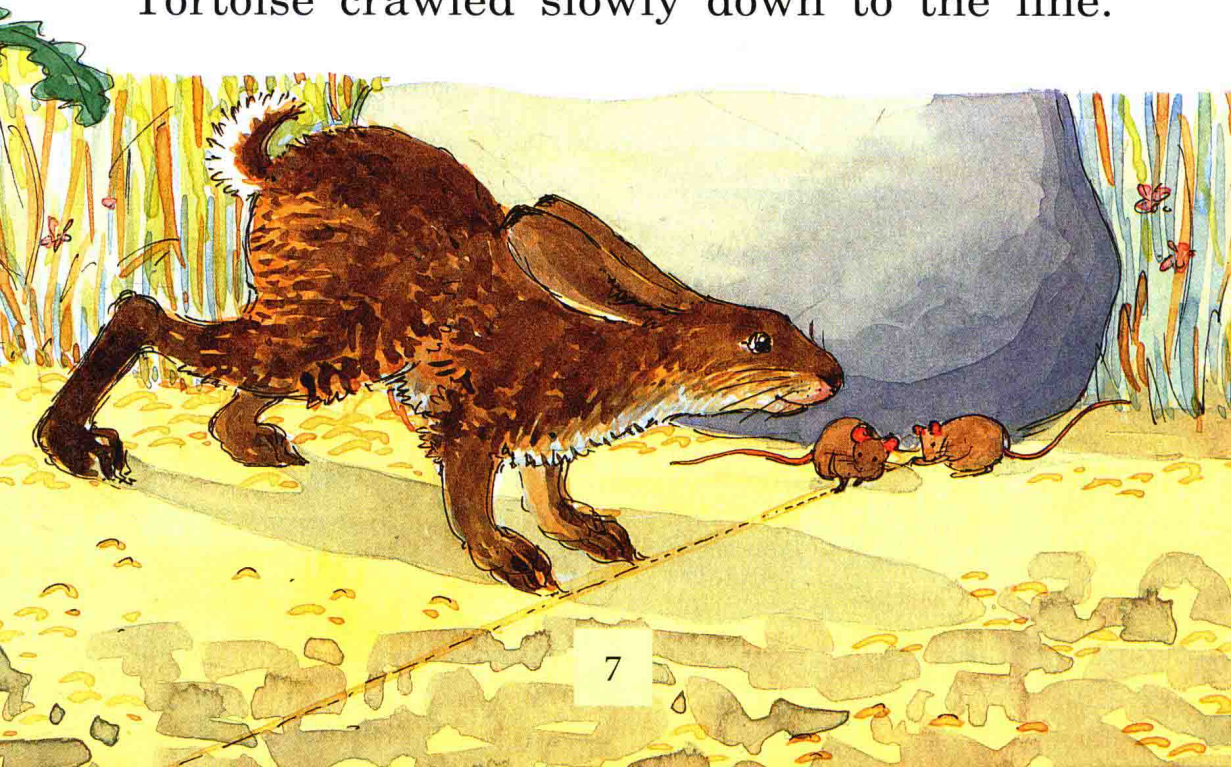


“You will go once around the **track**  
by the meadow,” he said,  
“past the **willow** tree,  
and back to this tree.”

Hare jumped out onto the track  
and stood there waiting.

The little mice **scratched** a starting line  
from the tree to the rock  
with their tiny **paws**.

Tortoise crawled slowly down to the line.







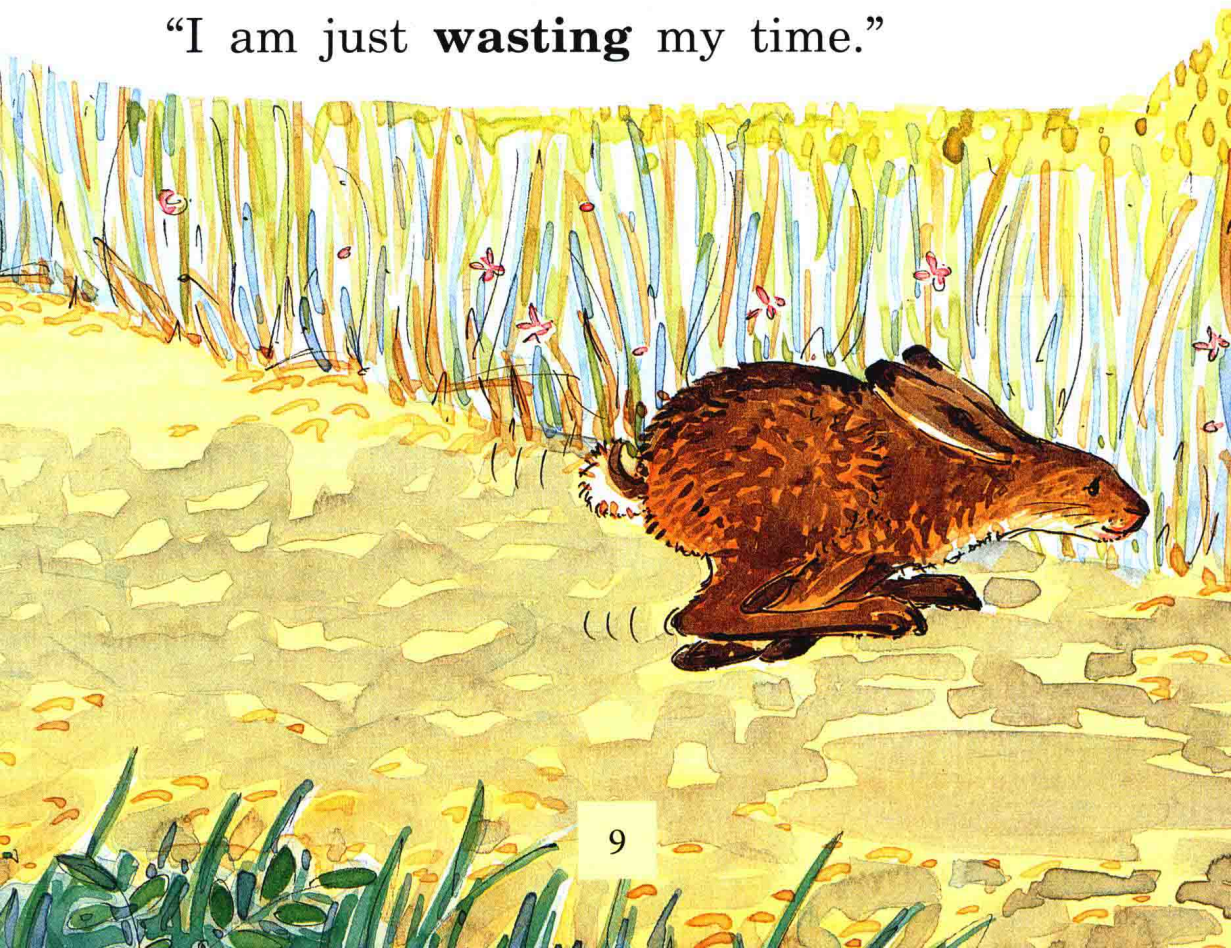


“Take your marks!  
Get set! Hoo-oo-oot!” called Owl.

Hare got away to a fine start,  
and he was soon out of sight.

“Why am I having a race  
with the slowest animal in the land?”  
he asked himself.

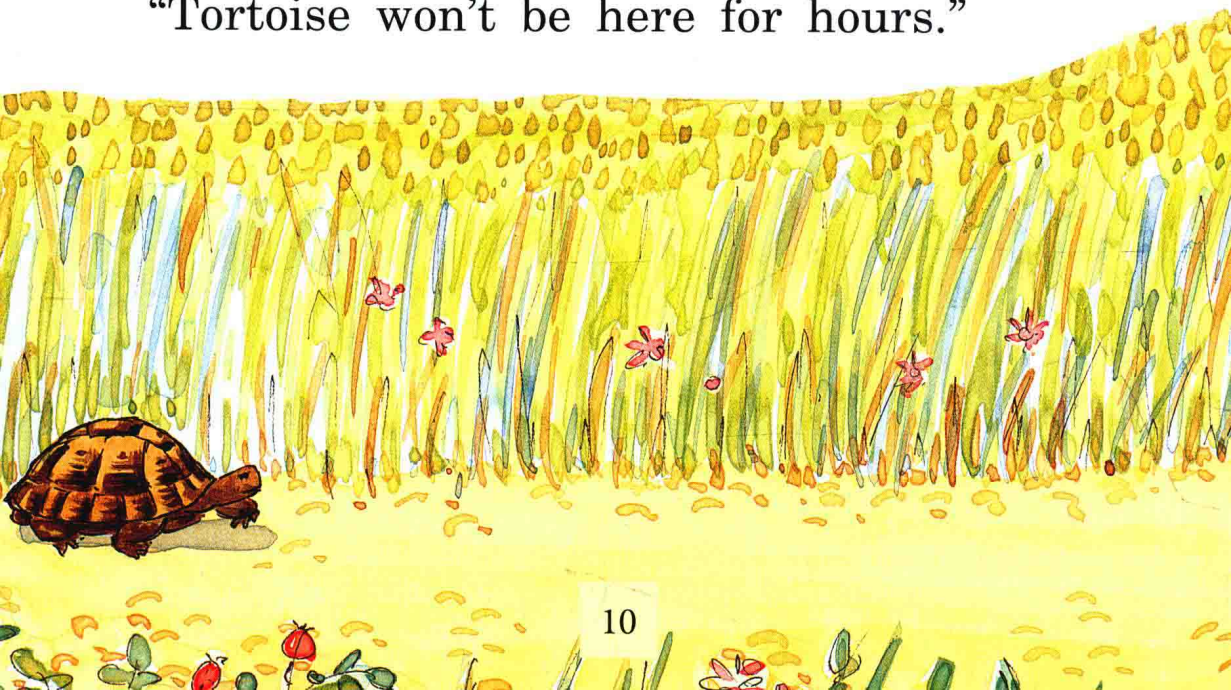
“I am just **wasting** my time.”





Tortoise moved his legs  
slowly up and down as he **plodded** along.  
“The sun is very hot,” he said to himself,  
“but my shell is keeping me cool.  
I will be able to walk  
all around the meadow today.”

Soon Hare stopped and looked behind him.  
He couldn't see Tortoise anywhere.  
“I've got time to have a little rest,”  
he said.  
“Tortoise won't be here for hours.”



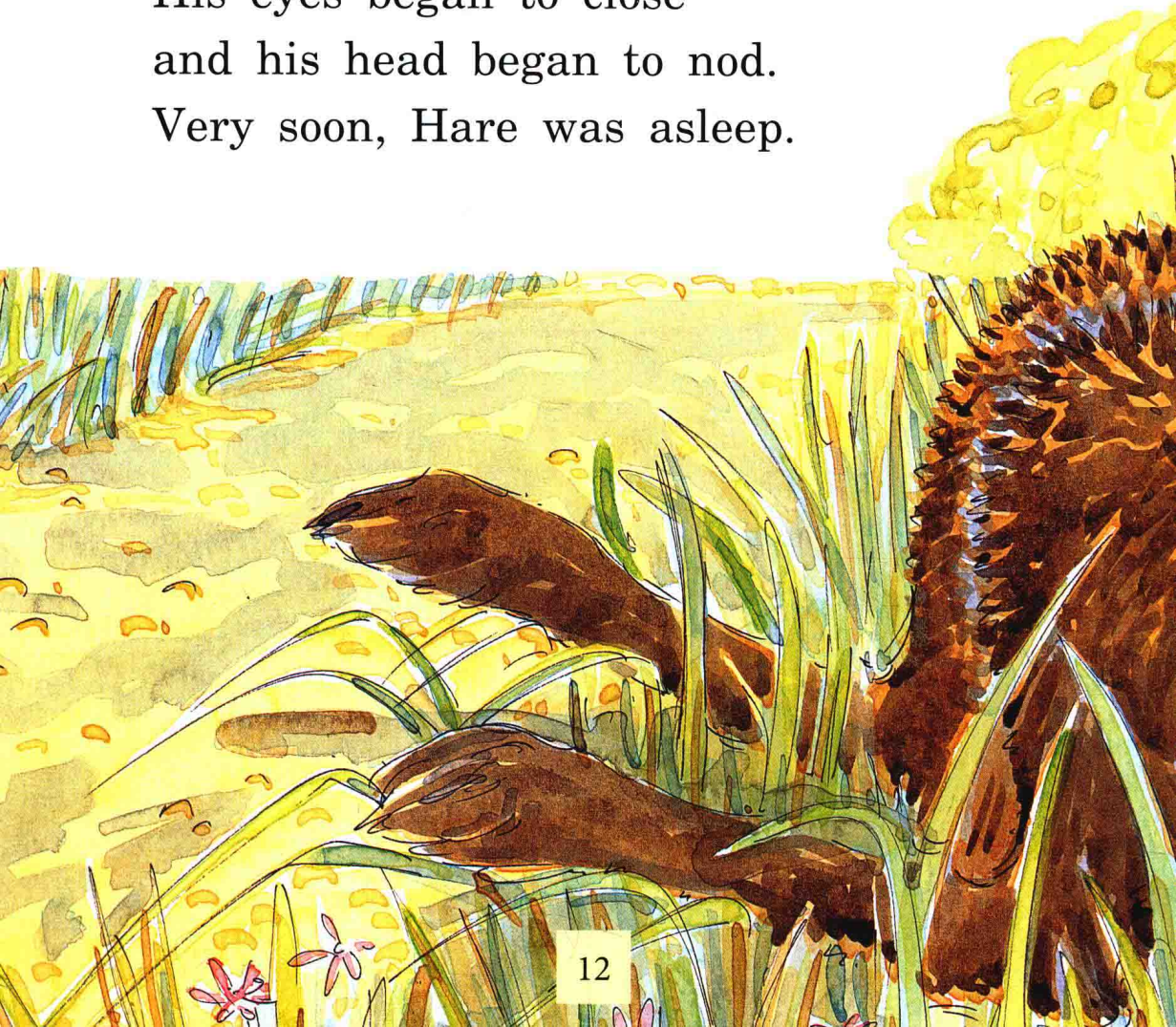






So Hare sat down to rest  
in the **shade** of the willow tree.  
He lay back in the cool green grass  
and watched the leaves moving gently  
above him.

His eyes began to close  
and his head began to nod.  
Very soon, Hare was asleep.









**Meanwhile**, Tortoise,  
who had been plodding steadily along,  
could just see the willow tree  
in the distance.

The little mice came running up to him.  
“Good news, Tortoise,” they **squeaked**.  
“Hare has gone to sleep!”

Tortoise smiled to himself  
and crawled just a little bit faster.

