

经典文学简易读物丛书

# 伊索寓言

AESOP'S

FABLES

A stylized illustration of a fox and a turtle in a field. The fox is on the left, looking towards the turtle. The turtle is on the right, facing the fox. The background is a dark, textured field with some green grass and a small bush. The overall style is simple and illustrative.

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# Aesop's Fables

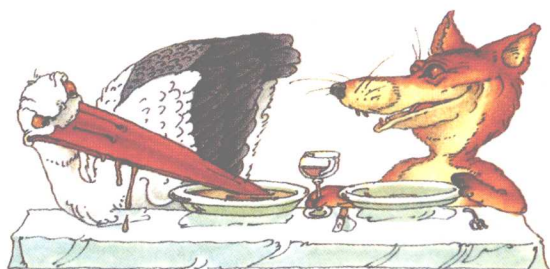
## 伊索寓言

Carol Watson 改写

〔英〕Katie Daynes 改编

〔英〕Nick Price 插图

魏令查 译



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## 出版前言

“经典文学简易读物丛书”是商务印书馆专门为我国中小學生精心挑选并组织翻译的一套优秀英汉对照简易读物，共10本。有驰名中外的英美经典文学著作，也有家喻户晓的希腊、罗马神话和寓意深刻的寓言和传说。每本均由英国专家简写而成，英语地道，通俗易懂；插图精美，妙趣横生；译文准确，语言流畅。

本套丛书适合中小學生阅读。相信他们一定会被大师们塑造的文学人物所吸引，被引人入胜的故事情节所感动，在世界文学的殿堂里得到熏陶，并在不知不觉的阅读过程中既提高了英语语感，也培养了浓厚兴趣。

**商务印书馆编辑部**

2008年1月

# Contents

Introduction	The mystery writer	1
Chapter 1	The tortoise and the hare	3
Chapter 2	The thirsty crow	9
Chapter 3	The ant and the dove	14
Chapter 4	The fox and the stork	22
Chapter 5	The mouse's tale	28
Chapter 6	The dog and the bone	40
Chapter 7	The fox and the crow	46
Chapter 8	The lion and the mouse	51



## Introduction

# The mystery writer



1 These stories were first told so long ago, no one knows who really wrote them. They may have been written by a man called Aesop , who lived in **Greece** thousands of years ago.

2 No one knows much about Aesop either. He might have been a slave... or a king. But everyone agrees the stories are great. And they all have one thing in common.



3 Every story is a **fable**. This means it has a moral, or a lesson to be learned. See if you can guess the moral before the story ends.





## Chapter 1

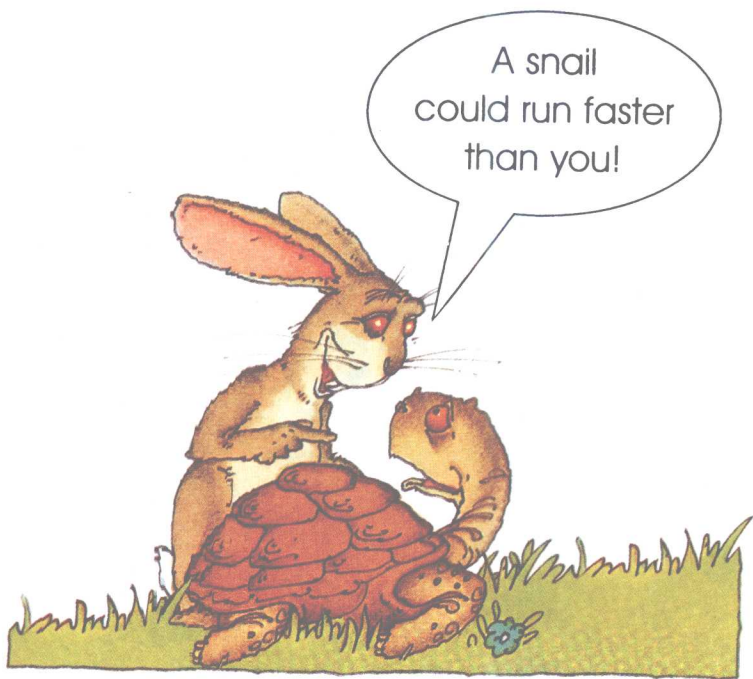
# The tortoise and the hare



- 1 One day, the hare was boasting about how **amazingly** fast he could run. His friends just yawned. They'd heard it all before.

2 The hare started to **pick on** the old tortoise.

3 “You’re so slow, I’m surprised you ever get anywhere,” he teased.



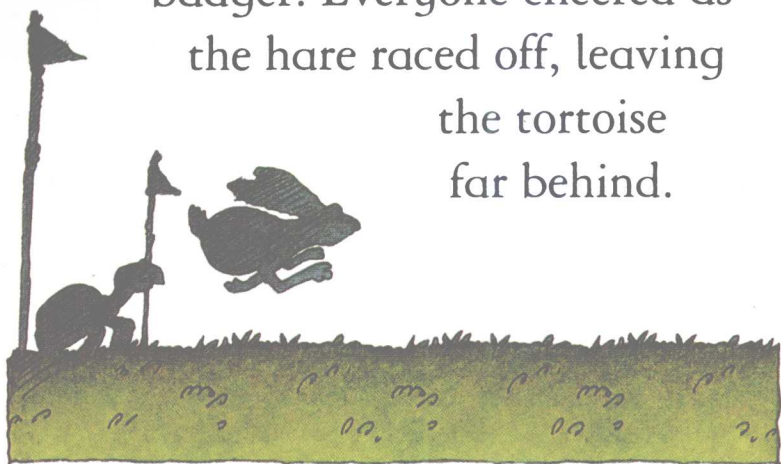
4 “I may be slow,” replied the tortoise, “but I bet I can reach the end of this field before you.”

5 “Hooray, a challenge!” whooped the hare. “Come on everyone. Watch me win!”

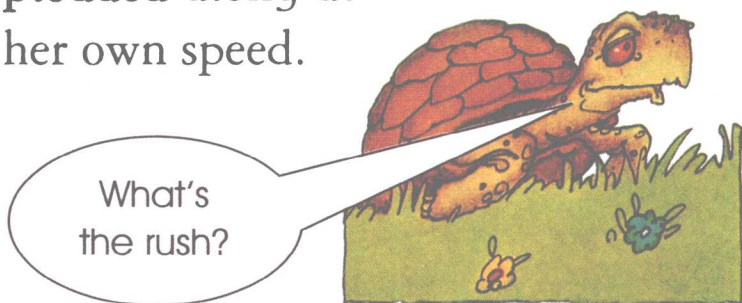


6 The other animals gathered around as the hare and the tortoise lined up to start.

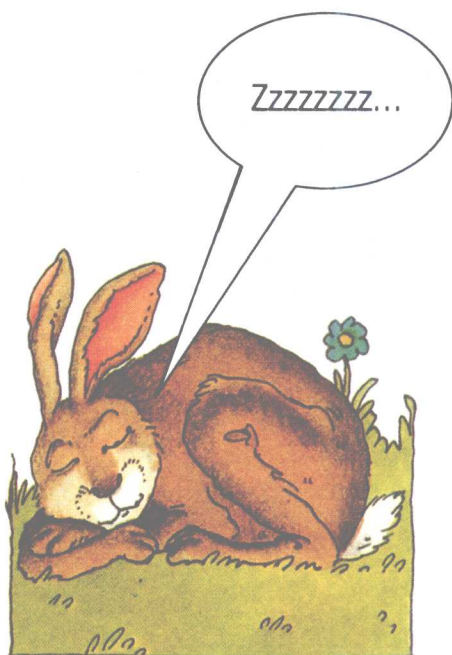
- 7 “Ready, steady, go!” shouted the badger. Everyone cheered as the hare raced off, leaving the tortoise far behind.



- 8 The tortoise wasn't bothered. She plodded along at her own speed.

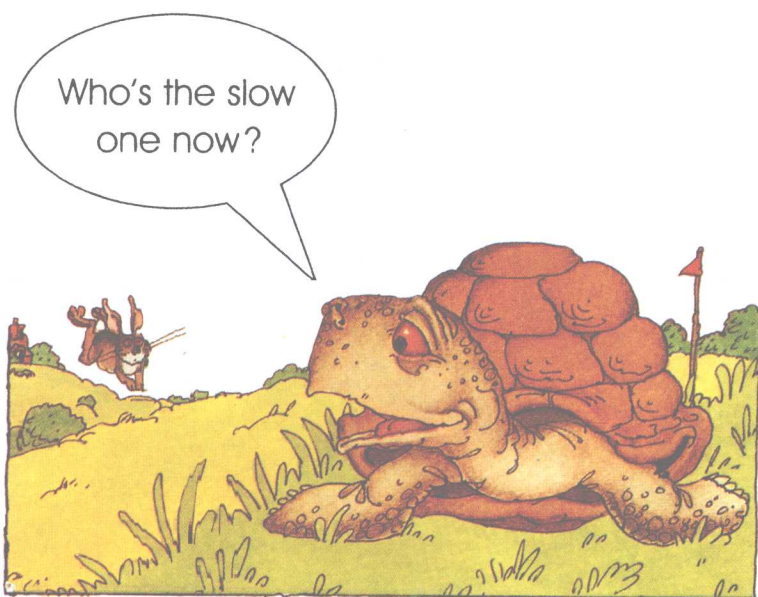


- 9 Halfway across the field, the hare looked back over his shoulder.
- 10 “That old tortoise will take all day,” he thought. “I might as well have a little rest.”



- 11 Soon he had **fallen fast asleep** in the warm sunshine.

12 Several hours later, the hare woke up in a panic. In the distance, he could see the tortoise about to cross the finishing line. He ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. The tortoise had won.



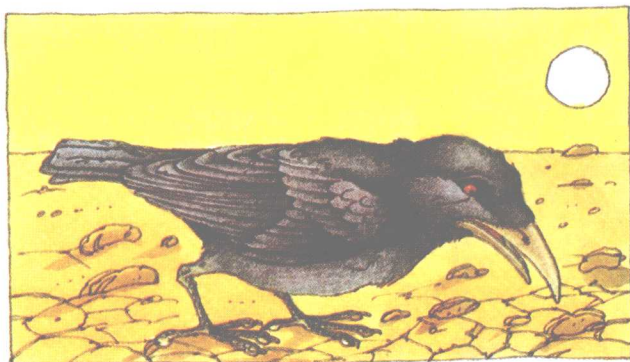
13 And the moral is...  
*Slow but sure can win the race.*





## Chapter 2

# The thirsty crow



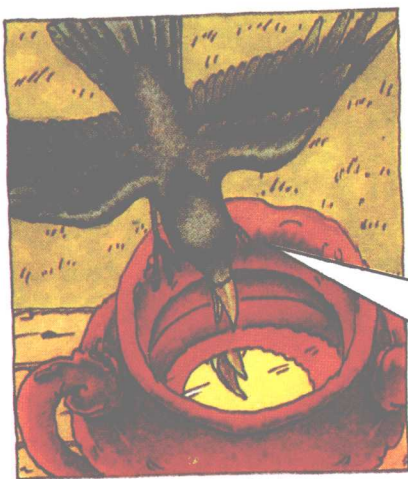
- 1 One hot summer, a thirsty crow was **searching for** something to drink. It hadn't rained for weeks and he was beginning to **give up** hope.

- 2 Then in the distance he spied a pot on someone's **windowsill**.  
He flew over to **take a closer look**.

Please let  
there be some  
water inside.



- 3 He could see water, but he couldn't reach it. Now he felt even more thirsty.



How will I ever  
drink that?



4 “Maybe I could break the pot...”  
he thought.

But his  
beak wouldn't  
crack the  
hard clay.



5 “If I could just **knock** the  
pot **over**...”

6 He pushed  
with all his  
weight but  
the pot  
wouldn't  
budge.

