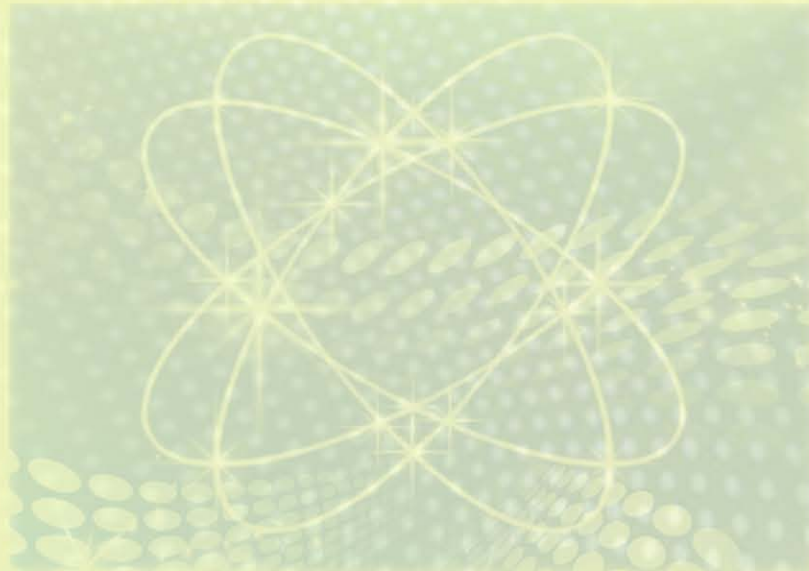


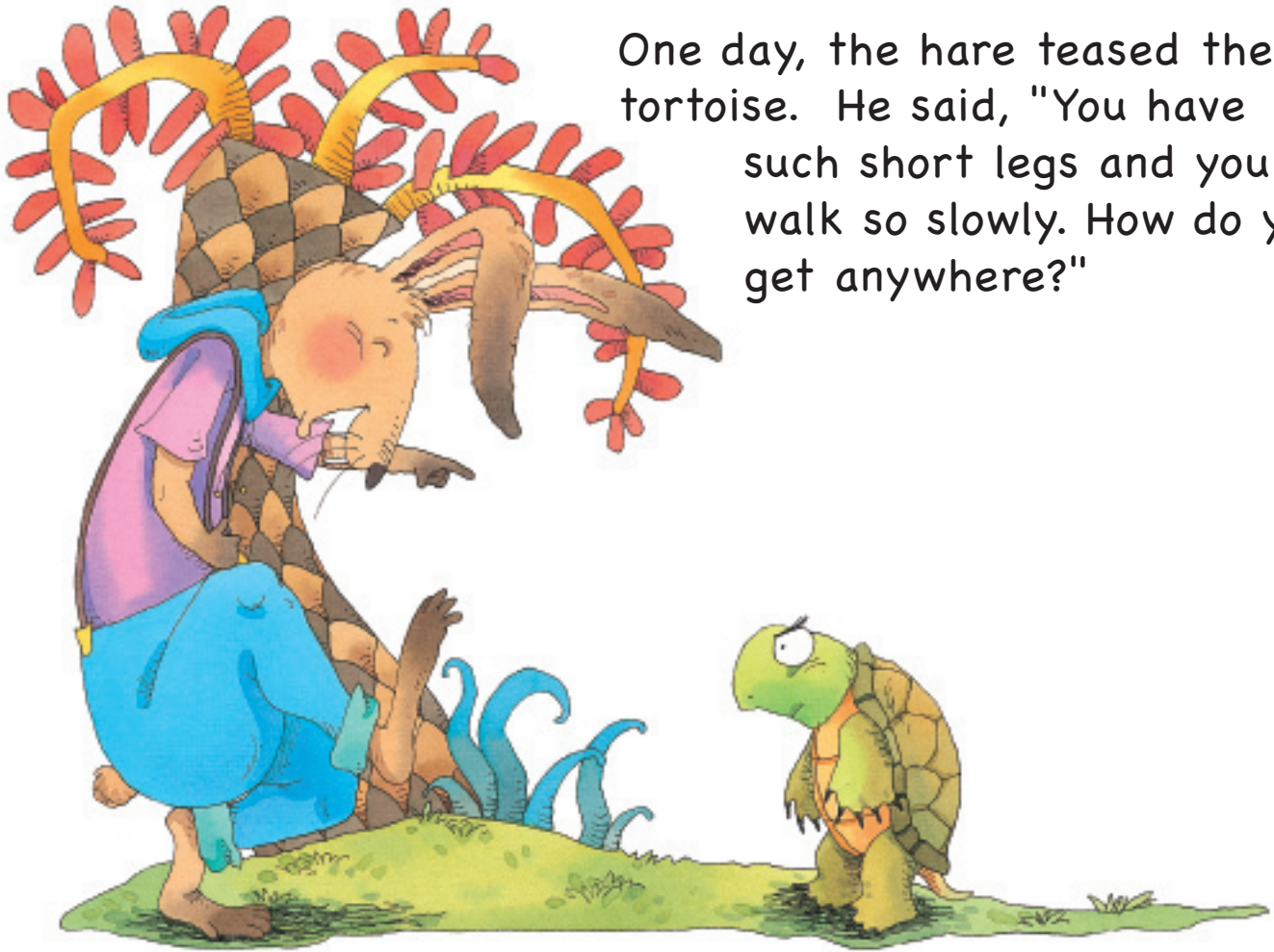
烏龜和兔子



Once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare that lived in the same little vllage.



One day, the hare teased the tortoise. He said, "You have such short legs and you walk so slowly. How do you get anywhere?"



The tortoise blushed and replied, "Well, Mr. Hare, you may be right about my short legs. But I bet that I can outrun you in a race even if you are as fast as the wind."





"You've got a deal!" said the hare. "But you will regret your words. I can beat you in any race."



So they marched off to the village mayor, an old fox, and said, "Mayor Fox, please choose the course and the finish line for our race."

On the morning of the race, the tortoise walked slowly toward the starting line. Everyone laughed at how slowly he moved.





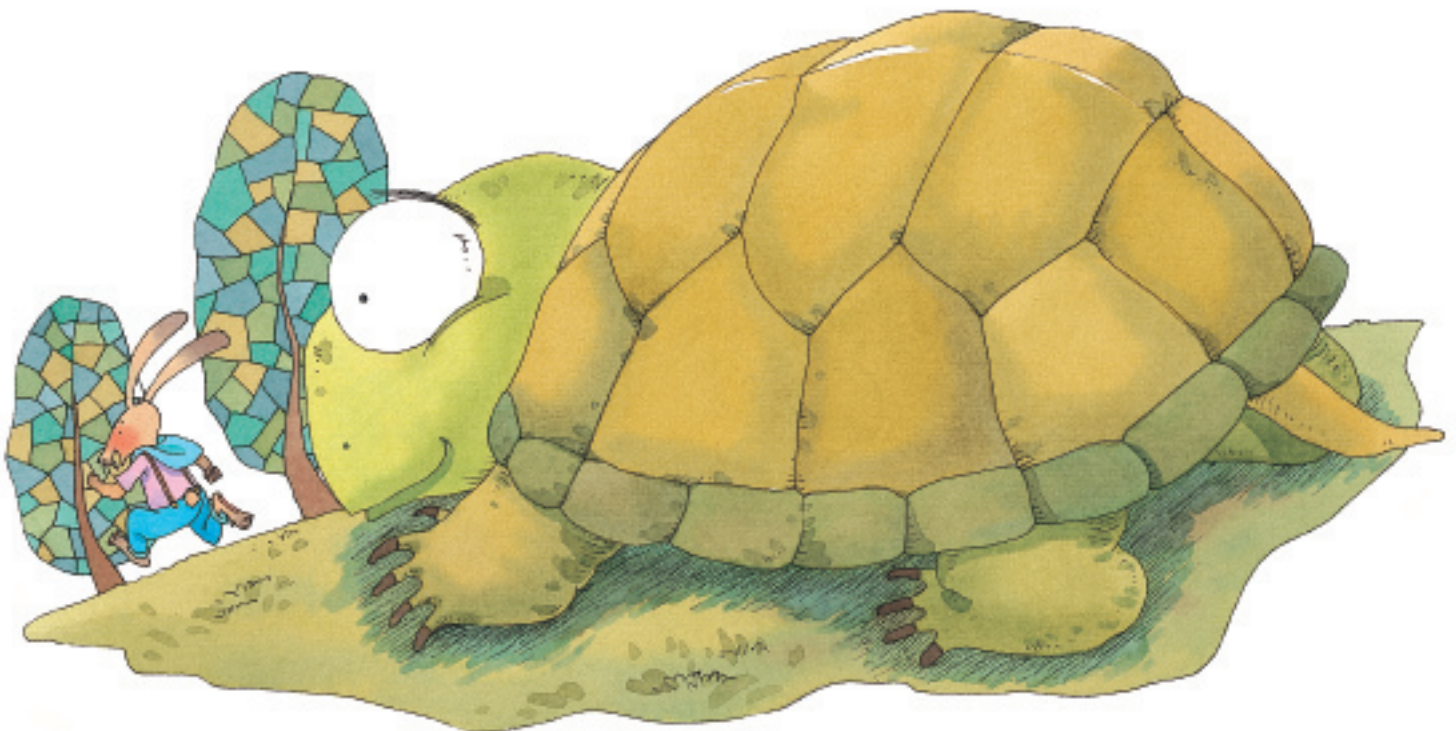
The hare was laughing so hard at the slow little tortoise that he didn't hear Mayor Fox say "Go!" The tortoise started walking, though very slowly.



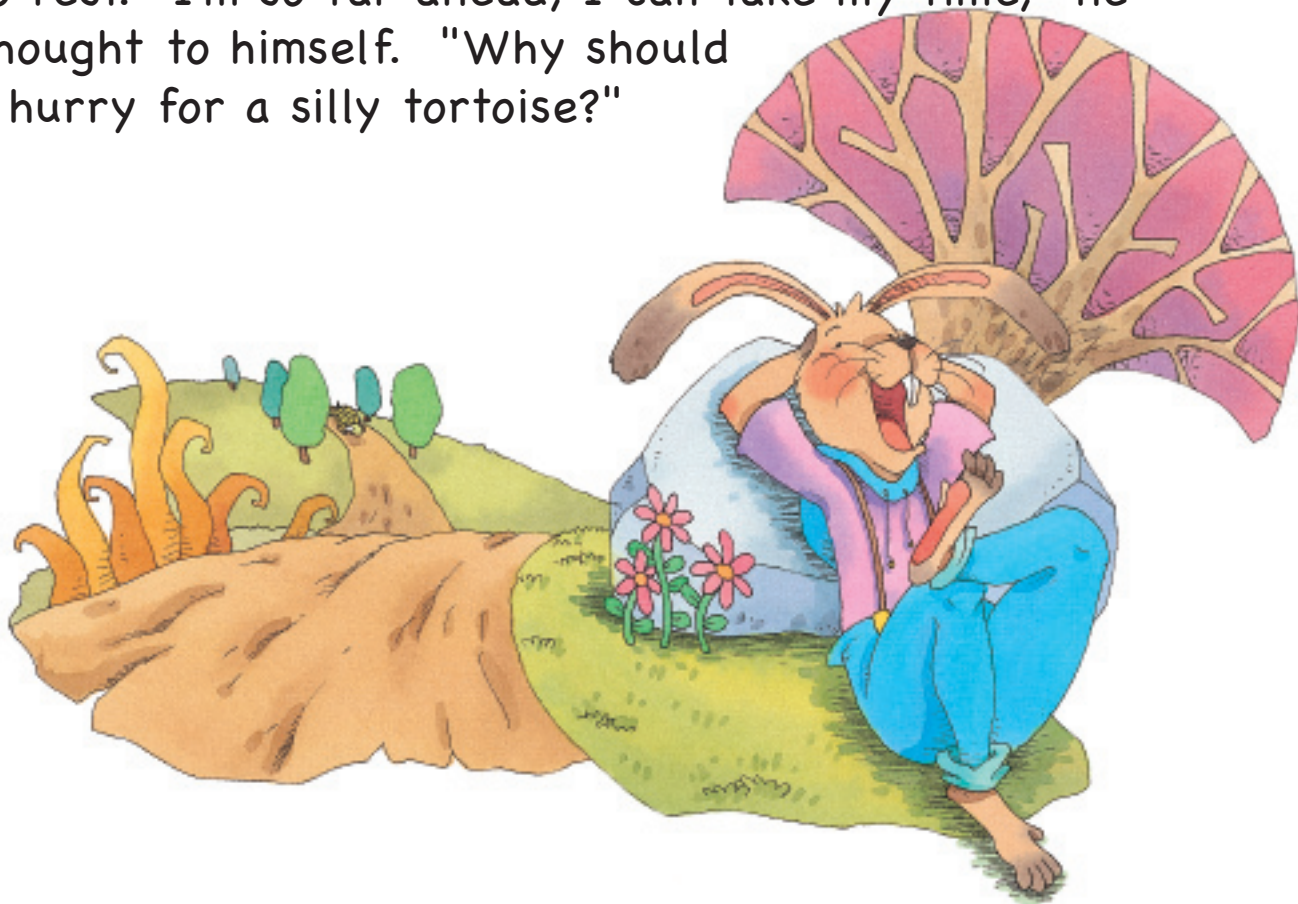
When the hare realized the race had begun, he ran after the tortoise and soon passed him. "I'll be waiting for you at the end!" teased the hare as he ran past.



The tortoise just smiled to himself and kept up his slow pace. He never stopped, not even once.



Soon the hare reached the halfway point and stopped to rest. "I'm so far ahead, I can take my time," he thought to himself. "Why should I hurry for a silly tortoise?"



The hare lay down in the grass under a tree, chewed on some grass, and gazed into the sky. Soon his eyelids drooped, and he fell asleep.



Meanwhile, the tortoise just kept walking slowly toward the finish line.



After a while, he passed the hare still sleeping under the tree.





"That silly hare thinks he will win this race," said the tortoise to himself. "We'll see about that! I'm smarter than he thinks!"



When the hare awoke, he sat up and rubbed his eyes. He looked around, but he could not see the tortoise. "Where did he go?" he wondered.

The hare looked over his shoulder but could not see the tortoise. He was surprised not to see him and jumped up and ran quickly toward the finish line.



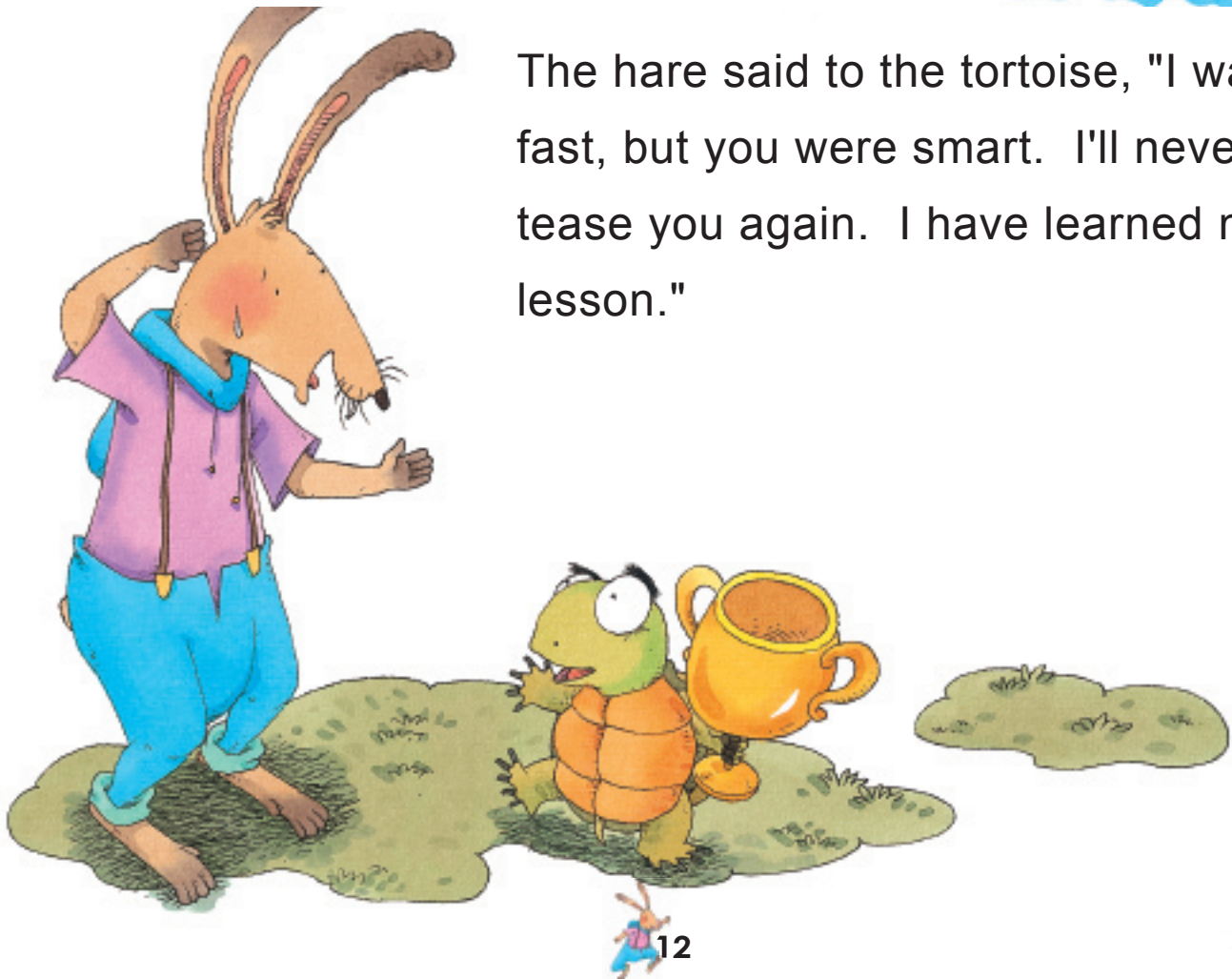


When he crossed the finish line, he thought he had won the race. But then he noticed that everyone was laughing at him!

Once the hare caught his breath, he looked at the crowd. To his surprise, he saw the tortoise sitting calmly, holding the winner's trophy in his hands.



The hare said to the tortoise, "I was fast, but you were smart. I'll never tease you again. I have learned my lesson."



The tortoise and the hare became good friends.



And the hare learned to be more careful about making quick judgments about the other animals.



The Tortoise and the Hare

Characters

The Narrator

The Fox

The Hare

The Little Bird

The Tortoise

The Little Piglet



Scene 1

Setting : *Outdoors*

The Narrator : Once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare that lived in the same little village.

The Hare : "You have such short legs? How do you get anywhere?"

The Tortoise : "My legs may be short. But I can walk for a long time. I bet that I can beat you in a race even if you are really fast."

The Hare : "Ha! Ha! Ha! Right!"

Scene 2

Setting : *In the mayor's office*

The Narrator : So they went to the village mayor, Mr. Fox.

The Tortoise : "Mayor Fox, we are going to have a race. Please choose a course for us."

The Hare : "That's right. I am going to race the tortoise."

The Fox : "Ok. I'll choose a course for you."

Scene 3

Setting : *In an open field*

The Narrator : On the morning of the race, everybody went to watch.

The Little Bird : "I don't see how the tortoise can outrun the hare."

The Little Piglet : "Me neither."

The Fox : "It's time to start. Get Ready! Get Set! GO!!!"

The Narrator : So the hare and the tortoise started out.



- The Hare** : "I almost didn't hear Mr. Fox. That's why I started a bit slowly. But I guess it doesn't make any difference."
- The Tortoise** : "I am just going to keep walking."
- The Narrator** : The hare soon arrived at the halfway point.
- The Hare** : "I'm so far ahead that I can rest for a while."
- The Narrator** : So the hare lay down in the grass under a tree to rest and soon fell asleep.
- The Tortoise** : "I guess the hare thinks I will never reach the finish line. Well, we'll see!"
- The Narrator** : The hare kept sleeping while the tortoise kept walking slowly. Finally, the hare woke up.
- The Hare** : "How did I fall asleep? What time is it? Where is the tortoise?"
- The Narrator** : The hare woke up and couldn't see anyone.
- The Hare** : "I really should run to the finish line now."

Scene 4

Setting : At the finish line

- The Narrator** : Everybody was already at the finish line.
- The Hare** : "How come you are all here? Where is the tortoise?"
- The Tortoise** : "I am over here. Look who just arrived!"
- The Hare** : "What happened?"
- The Tortoise** : "You thought I was slow, so you fell asleep, and I won the bet!"
- The Hare** : "I was fast, but you were smart. I'll never tease you again."
- The Narrator** : Since the race, the tortoise and the hare have become good friends.





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