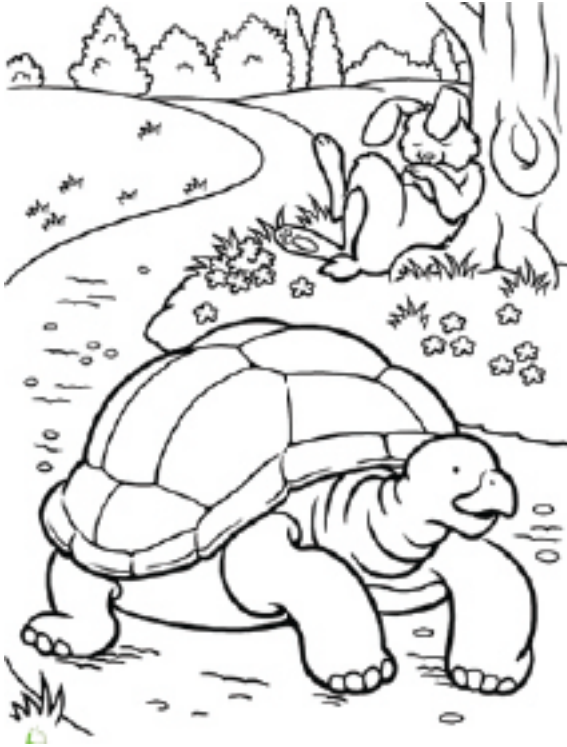


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Tortoise & The Hare

An Aesop Fable



A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.

"Do you ever get anywhere?" he asked with a **mocking** laugh.

"Yes," replied the Tortoise, "and I get there sooner than you think. I'll run you a race and prove it."

The Hare was much **amused** at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had **consented** to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how **ridiculous** it was for him

to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up.

The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but **steadily**, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his **swiftest**, but he could not **overtake** the Tortoise in time.

Read the excerpt above. Then, use the context clues to match each vocabulary word to its definition.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>mocking</b>    | agreed   |
| <b>amused</b>     | criticising and laughing at someone for being worthless or unimportant |
| <b>consented</b>  | to move past someone by moving faster than them                        |
| <b>ridiculous</b> | most quickly   |
| <b>steadily</b>   | being made to laugh or smile   |
| <b>swiftest</b>   | lasting or continuing for a long period of time in a dependable way    |
| <b>overtake</b>   | extremely silly or unreasonable  |