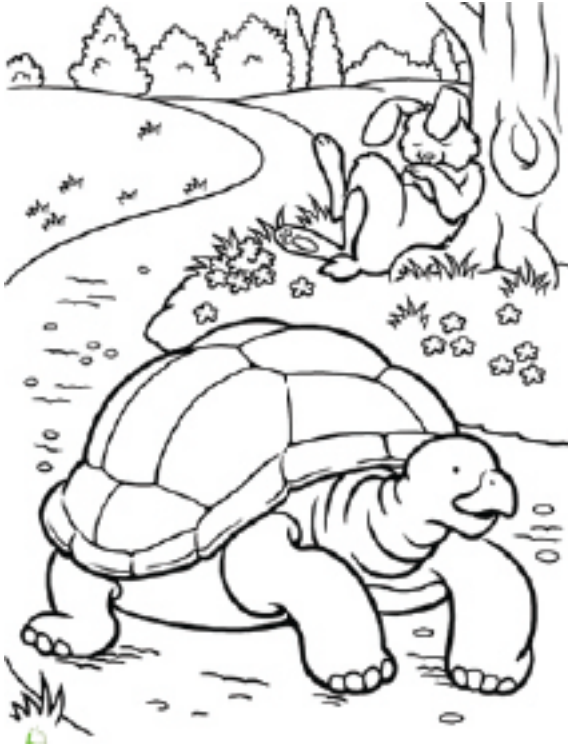


Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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