



# The Tortoise & the Hare

*Jerry Pinkney*

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## The Tortoise & the Hare Jerry Pinkney

This companion to the Caldecott Medal-winning *The Lion & the Mouse* is Jerry Pinkney's most stunning masterpiece yet. Even the slowest tortoise can defeat the quickest hare, and even the proudest hare can learn a timeless lesson from the most humble tortoise: *Slow and steady wins the race!* Here is a superbly rendered journey from starting line to finish that embodies the bravery, perseverance, and humility we can all find inside ourselves.

## The Tortoise & the Hare Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (first published September 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780316183567

Author : Jerry Pinkney

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Folklore, Folk Tales, Fables, Fiction, Classics, Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Storytime

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# From Reader Review The Tortoise & the Hare for online ebook

## Julie Hetu says

Title: The Tortoise and the Hare

Author: Jerry Pinkney

Genre: Fable

Theme(s): race, tortoise, hare

Opening line/sentence:

“once upon a time, there was a tortoise and a hare.”

Brief Book Summary: In this version of the tortoise and the hare, these two animals are faced with a challenge of winning the race. As usual, the hare is super confident, while the tortoise is thorough and laid back. At the end, the tortoise wins the race as is well known, “slow and steady wins the race.”

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Thom Barthelmess (Booklist, Aug. 1, 2013 (Vol. 109, No. 22) )

Starred Review\* After his Caldecott triumph with *The Lion & the Mouse* (2009), Pinkney returns to Aesop for inspiration, this time setting the familiar story in the American Southwest. The endpapers indicate the race route around a cacti-laden barnyard, and the title page shows our titular competitors setting the challenge, before taking off, cheered on by a group of avid animal spectators. The fable plays out as expected, and Pinkney alternates the action between the tortoise's diligence and the hare's overconfidence. To mark the tortoise's progress, Pinkney unveils the moral of the story cumulatively, beginning with just the word *slow* and adding another word to the phrase at each milestone, until, at contest's end, the entire phrase *slow and steady wins the race* celebrates the tortoise's victory. The tortoise sports an engineer's cap and kerchief; the hare, a checkered vest; and most of the other animals, a variety of town and country clothing, adding a note of homespun vibrancy to Pinkney's elegant watercolor paintings. Adjacent to an informative artist's note, we see the hare tying a checkered flag about the tortoise's neck, and the final endpapers depict a victory party. The tortoise may have won the race, but the real winner here is the listening and viewing audience. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Pinkney took home the Caldecott Medal for *The Lion & the Mouse*, so expect lots of buzz about this companion picture book.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Ken Marantz and Sylvia Marantz (Children's Literature )

Pinkney's retelling of the classic fable of the tortoise and the hare is almost textless. After the racers are told, *On your marks, get set go!* by the presiding fox, the moral appears a word at a time throughout the visual tale: *Slow and steady wins the race*. Pinkney finds the rocks and vegetation of the American Southwest a fitting setting for the sport. His pages, illustrated with graphite, watercolor, colored pencils, gouache, and pastel, are filled with action beginning with the front end pages, where the path of the famous race is traced. Crowds of naturalistic but anthropomorphic spectators obviously are enjoying themselves. The portrayal of the two stars in this drama is particularly expressive; their personalities are clearly defined. The final celebration explodes across the back end pages. Pinkney's notes about the relation between the fable and his life and his inspiration add to our appreciation of his art. Don't miss the contrast between the cover and jacket.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

As stated in these two reviews, this book is almost textless, but instead refers to the great watercolor paintings that show the different animals. I think that having these illustrations add to the book and make a more enjoyable experience for the readers just as the reviews state.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

Even though this plot is rather simple, it is a well known plot. Having the illustrations and almost no words add to the book in a way that is not always done well. However, this author and illustrator do a great job of

making these illustrations stand out and provide depth for the story.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

With this book, students could use a graphic organizer in order to record the main events throughout the story. By doing this, students will be able to learn how to set up a graphic organizer and then will be able to do it for a story of their own in the future.

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## **Olivia Desenberg says**

Title (*italicize*): *The Tortoise and The Hare*

Author: Jerry Pinkney

Genre: Fable

Theme(s): Animals, Racing, Friendship, Values, Morals

Opening line/sentence (type directly from text):

On your marks,

Get set.. Go!

Brief Book Summary (2-3 sentences in your own words):

This picture book follows the classic story of tortoise and the hare. The hare's assumptions about the turtle being too slow makes him believe he can rest while the race is happening and he will still win. In the end, the slow and steady tortoise defeats the hare in the race.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1

CCBC

Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices

<http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.libraries>...

"Jerry Pinkney's not-quite-wordless treatment of the classic Aesop fable features a cast of animal characters rendered with a keen eye for detail and movement, set against the muted backdrop of a lovely desert landscape. Words comprising the moral build cumulatively across a series of pages ( Slow Slow and Slow and steady ). Wordless spreads between the appearance of each new word show the continuing action (or, in the case of the Hare, occasional inaction). Pinkney uses a mix of full-page and panel illustrations, and there is much to discover for anyone who spends time with his gorgeous images. His decision to put clothing on the animals was, he explains in a note, a way to distinguish them from the landscape, and he hopes is suggestive of the splashes of color provided by desert blooms. While the ending of the story may come as no surprise, its aftermath is: the Hare is a good sport, and congratulates his opponent. CCBC Category: Folklore, Mythology, and Traditional Literature. 2013, Little, Brown, 32 pages, \$18.00. Ages 4-8."

Recommendation/Review #2

Joy Hannabass

Readers' Favorite

<http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.libraries>...

"There are many variations of the classic tale of The Tortoise and The Hare, and this version by Jerry Pinkney is one of the most adorable I've seen. Instead of using the words, Pinkney uses his awesome illustrations to tell this story. There is a word or two throughout the book, but the story is mainly told through the delightful paintings. This is no ordinary children's book; it is hardcover with a nice dust-jacket, and the

cover and pages are of very high quality paper. First of all, the outside of this book is absolutely beautiful; there are really no words to adequately describe these paintings. I love the characters, their unique outfits, the beautiful colors, and the western atmosphere. And even though there are very few words, the pictures themselves tell the story. I'd choose this book for little ones not old enough to read, because they can let their imaginations soar as they make up the story to go with the illustrations they are looking at. The adorable tortoise and hare and the subdued colors are wonderful to look at, and any child would grab this book off the bookshelves. This is an awesome addition to your child's library, or would be really nice for your home school child or a school library. I strongly encourage you to pick up a copy, and suggest this book for your school or local library. You just can't go wrong with Jerry Pinkney's version of *The Tortoise and the Hare*."

Response to Two Professional Reviews (3-4 sentences in your own words)

I agree with both professional reviews and I think this book is perfect for young readers. The images are very unique and intriguing. Everyone knows the story of the tortoise and the hare and this book is a great twist to make it more accessible to young readers or even emergent bilingual students. Many of the same points were made in both reviews.

Evaluation of Literary Elements (3-4 sentences in your own words):

This book is a fable since it is a small story that teaches a lesson (Tunnell, Jacobs, Young, & Bryan Chapter 9). This story is really well known, but the illustrations in this book make it stand out from other versions. The book uses plenty of techniques outlined by Molly Bang. It creates images in vertical positions to show time passing. There are also page spreads with one main focal point on the center of the spread. This attracts the reader to the middle of the spread.

Consideration of Instructional Application (3-4 sentences in your own words):

This book is great for a read aloud in a preschool to kindergarten classroom. This book is a perfect way to teach children about using illustrations to construct meaning. There are very few words in this book, which makes it really great for emergent bilingual students. This book would be a good mentor text to teach graphophonic cueing system strategies. You could also use this book to teach children about animals and the characteristics associated with animals.

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## **Canadian Reader says**

A stunningly beautiful book. I can appreciate the art, but I do lament that there weren't more words to accompany the visuals. I found that Pinkney's afterword provided insights into why he told the story as he did. His discussion of his fresh new take on the Hare was particularly interesting.

The intricate detail of the illustrations makes this a book that is better read with one child at a time than with an entire class--unless you have access to a document projector.

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## **Barbara says**

Sumptuous graphite, watercolor, colored pencils, gouache and pastel illustrations tell the familiar story of a race between a tortoise and a hare. The tortoise moves slowly but steadily to the finished line despite the surety that the rabbit is far ahead of him. But as young readers familiar with the story know, that rabbit is

easily distracted and ends up munching on some garden veggies and taking a snooze while the tortoise just keeps trundling toward his goal. I love the story, the message, and the setting in the desert Southwest as well as all the animals who accompany the competitors. Since the book contains only a handful of words that are repeated to insure readers understand the book's theme, readers have time to savor the delights of those illustrations, filled as they are with the delicate hues of the desert. All of the animals in the book's images seem to have unique personalities, captured as they are by the Pinkney in this visual masterpiece.

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### **Matt says**

Aesop's famous story comes to life with these electric illustrations. Many know the story of the cocky hare who races ahead and presumes that he can beat the slow tortoise. By the end, the dedication of the tortoise trumps anything that the hare might feel he can do to ensure victory. As I said, the illustrations in this book stole the show and Neo was so captivated by them that he could not stop pointing things out for me to see. Short on words but very detailed in its artistry. Perfect for the young reader who can concoct a story based on the images.

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### **Linda Lipko says**

Mentioned as a possibility for a Caldecott award on one of the Mock Newbery threads I found, the illustrations in this book are...incredible...fantastic...marvelous and lovely beyond words.

Few in words, lush in illustrations, this is the ageless story of the turtle who keeps a slow, steady pace, and a rabbit who races and is easily distracted at times.

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### **Jackie says**

Another gorgeous book from Jerry Pinkney. He's a master illustrator, that's all there is to it. Anything he does is worth getting. It's as simple as that.

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### **Crystal Jackson says**

GREAT illustrations!! Words were not needed to make this a great book. I think young children will love this story for the great pictures.

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### **Pam ?Because Someone Must Be a Thorn? Tee says**

My kids and I love Jerry Pinkney's artwork. It's beautiful and detailed and funny.

In THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE, there's a western backdrop featuring cactuses and mesquite. Tortoise

is wearing a train cap (of all things!) and coyote has got him a cap with a feather in it; while Ms. Kangaroo Mouse dons a prairie bonnet and Hare wears a very nice checkered vest.

Besides the art, what's nice about this story is that it isn't necessary for younger children to be able to read to enjoy it. After they know the story they will be able to pour over the pages and retell it to themselves.

BEAUTIFUL VERSION of this classic story. This would be a lovely book to share with youngsters.

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(sample pages n' more TORTOISE AND THE HARE

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### **Tasha says**

Wow. This companion book to Pinkney's Caldecott Medal winning *The Lion & the Mouse* is another outstanding book. Set in the deserts of the Southwest, the story has all sorts of animals gathered to watch the race, including badgers, lynx, mice, and vultures. All of them wear at least one piece of clothing, from hats to bandanas to pants. As the pages of the book turn, readers will get to see how each of the animals approaches the race, from the frenzy and then sloth of the hare to the steadiness of the tortoise. Readers will get a sense of the slowness also from the words on the page that every so tantalizingly make out phrases as the pages turn.

Told in few words, the book is all about the illustrations which are magnificent. Filled with tiny details to linger over, each illustration is beautifully composed and helps move the story forward. Pinkney stays true to the classic tale, not changing any of the storyline. He manages to take stories that can become overly wordy and with images alone tell their story and make them appropriate and thrilling for a young audience. I will always see his illustrations when I hear this story. That is talent!

Quite simply, this is another masterpiece by Pinkney. A must-have book for every library serving preschoolers. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

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### **Joella [www.cinjoella.com](http://www.cinjoella.com) says**

This is another retelling of the Tortoise & the Hare, but done in the illustration style that only Jerry Pinkney can do. The race begins with loads of animals dressed in some items of clothes (hats, vests, bonnets, etc.) ready to watch the race between the tortoise and the hare. There aren't many words. A fox calls out, "On your marks, get set...Go!" Of course the hare takes off and goes as fast as possible. The pictures show how the hare can go quickly over logs or water and the tortoise takes more time (illustrated by more panels) to go over the same distance. To begin with the hare looks frantic and is going all-out (as shown by the completely outstretched body). But soon hare slows down and digs a hole, eats some lettuce, and takes a nap. Tortoise still trudges on. Eventually hare wakes up and realizes that the nap wasn't such a great idea because "slow and steady wins the race!"

This is a delightfully illustrated edition of this fable. The expressions on the animals are amazing. There is so much that is told in just an expression or the body language. The way that the smaller panels show what

takes longer (from the tortoise's movements to hare's sleeping) are a nice visual cue as to how continual movement is more important than rushing and going off-course. And the last illustration with the hare tying the checkered flag around the tortoise's neck hints that there are no hard feelings against each other. This is a fun retelling that is nearly wordless—just the most essential words are used. Which is great since that will allow grownups who “read” the book to youngsters to continually ask “what is happening?” Which in turn will allow kiddos the opportunity to practice their narrative skills by interpreting what they see and processing it with words into a story. Nicely done, Mr. Pinkney. Nicely done.

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## **Darin Nordman says**

The Tortoise and the Hare by Jerry Pinkney

A classic tale I have read and heard many times and is always a great story, this wordless picture book, The Tortoise and the Hare, was just as good of a read as I have experienced it in the past. But the book itself was another unique version of this classic. The illustrations were "modernized", giving that extra detail to all the animals in the book. I did catch a few words in the book, so I would not say that this was completely wordless, but it gives insight on what it means to take your time and to not be "over confident", as I would put it. On a side note, the words seemed to be more of a dialogue.

This story is always a great story, but this one in particular stands out to me with its illustrations. Going into the SPED field, I feel that this specific book is very detailed and would/could make sense to students who have problems reading or have no verbal communication. Students who are nonverbal could enjoy and sometimes even understand what this book is trying to teach, in my opinion. Overall favorite of the 3 books for this week.

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## **Erin Buhr says**

Jerry Pinkney has a gift for taking fairy tales and fables to a different level. This is the companion to the Caldecott winning masterpiece THE LION AND THE MOUSE. The Tortoise and the Hare is a well known fable with a strong oral tradition. Pinkney embraces the simplest version of the text and celebrates the story with his rich, detailed illustrations. A wide variety of art materials are used to create a depth and texture to each depiction. THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE is set in the desert with a delightful cast of softly colored creatures that fill the pages as the hare and the tortoise have their epic race. A fantastic version of this classic story.

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## **Ann says**

When I was a child, my G-ma gave me a book of Aesop's fables. I was struggling with reading, but I could look at the pictures and make up the tales. Of course, I liked the animals but there was more to it than that. Skip ahead many years. Jerry Pinkney is a children's book illustrator out of my dreams. He has come back to these tales, which were also a vivid aspect of his childhood, over many years. His masterpiece, The Lion and the Mouse, a wordless picture book which perfectly conveyed the fable, won the Caldecott Medal in 2010.



Here is the Tortoise & the Hare. Another (mostly) wordless book, Pinkney smartly set the well-known story in the American Southwest. It's good racing terrain, good tortoise and hare climate, and good to feature desert critters like badgers, lynx, snakes and vultures. All of the animals' movements, clothing and facial expressions are unique and vivid to the point of being fascinating and even good scary. In the endnotes, Pinkney explains that the moral of the tale-slow and steady wins the race- is meaningful to him because he struggled with dyslexia as a child. He notes, "Competitors can also be teammates and friends." When I read books for children and teens, I always have the target audience in mind. But with Aesop and Pinkney, it goes to the core of my own child self.

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## **June says**

Beautifully illustrated, deceptively simple retelling of the well known fable.

I love Pinkney's artist's note - how this fable was particularly meaningful to him in his youth, but how he also finds it rings truer today as the pace of life continues to speed up.

Used for a Wordless Story Time program, used a colleague's recommendation and had little hare and tortoise name tags. 11/5/14

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