

HARE & TORTOISE: SYNOPSIS

This theatrical version of Aesop's *The Tortoise & The Hare* explores ideas of opposites, friendship and time; of enjoying the moment, and letting go of (comforting, predictable) certainties in favour of (dangerous, but ultimately more fertile) uncertainties. That is to say, a play about the terror & excitement of growing up.

The play begins in winter with our musical storyteller, Time, introducing us to the main characters: young, fast, Hare and old, slow Tortoise.

Hare has been waiting for Tortoise to wake from her winter sleep. He's so impatient to race that he's failed to notice the beauties of wintertime but when Tortoise eventually wakes, she tells him he has to wait a little longer. Maybe they can race in the spring...

As winter melts into spring, it turns out there are things to do (like getting washed and planting carrot seeds) but if Hare can wait for one whole minute... He tries but fails. Maybe they can race in the summer...

As spring flowers into summer, there are more things to do (like going on holiday/vacation and watering the carrots) but if Hare can wait for one whole minute... He tries but fails again. Maybe they can race in the autumn/fall...

As summer fades into autumn/fall, surely it must be time to race. Can Hare wait for one whole minute? He tries - really hard this time - and yes! Yes! Under the ever-watchful eye of Time, they prepare to race and finally they're off!

Hare is sure he'll win, but stopping along the way to play, eat and sleep, he wakes to find Tortoise has beaten him to the finishing line. At first he's upset and annoyed but with Tortoise's help Hare comes to realise that life isn't a race, but rather a journey.

As Tortoise settles down to sleep once more, Hare promises to wait for her - and tell her all the wonders of winter when she wakes in the spring.

And Time looks on, as the world turns...