



CHILDPLAY

RESOURCES

The Big Idea:
Finding Your Own
Pace

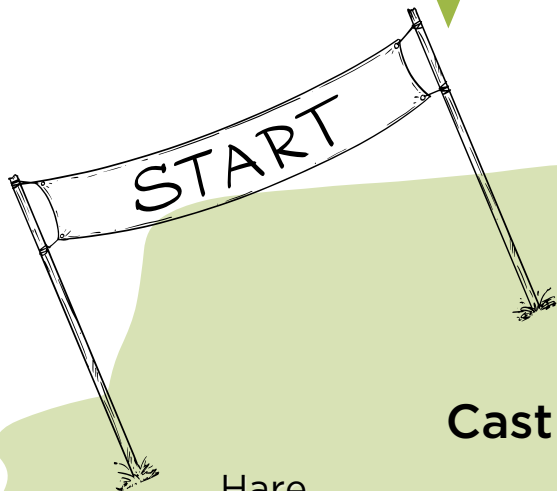


Written by Brendan Murray

Directed by Ricky Araiza



Meet the Team



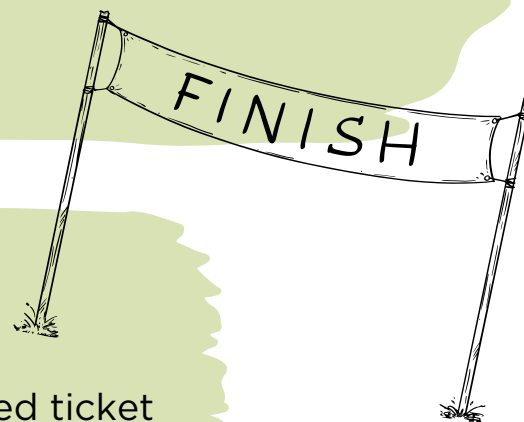
Cast

HareKatie McFadzen
TortoiseJon Gentry
MusicianRyan Ardelt



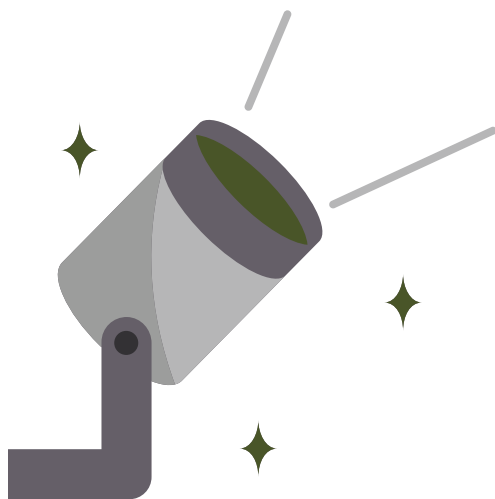
Creative Team

DirectorRicky Araiza
Stage ManagerKalie Hagen
Scenic DesignerNick Hutchinson
Costume DesignerGail Wolfenden-Steib
Prop DesignerNatalie Ward
Lighting DesignerBrett Reese



Sponsors

Field trip discounted ticket
prices are underwritten by
Susan Goldsmith.



What the Play is About

The play begins in late winter. Hare is impatient and excited, wanting to race as soon as Tortoise wakes up. But when Tortoise emerges from hibernation, he calmly begins his morning routine—washing, brushing his teeth, and getting ready for spring. Hare races through the tasks and keeps asking, “Can we race now?” But Tortoise says it’s not time yet.

As spring arrives, Tortoise plants carrot seeds in the garden, carefully digging holes and watering them. Hare rushes to finish her planting first. When Hare asks if the carrots are ready, Tortoise reminds her that growing things takes time and encourages her to notice the beauty of the changing world around them. But Hare still struggles to slow down.



In summer, Tortoise and Hare play a shadow game, using their bodies to create animals and shapes. Tortoise’s shadows are detailed and thoughtful, while Hare’s are fast and wild. They imagine flying like birds and tell stories using light and movement. Though they enjoy a moment of shared creativity, Hare remains eager to race.

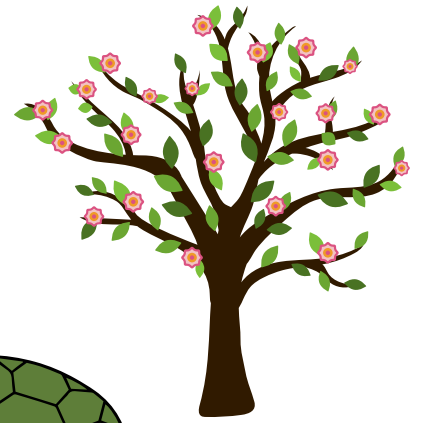
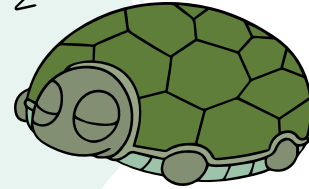
Autumn arrives and the carrots are finally ready to harvest. The two friends gather them together, and Tortoise carefully stores them away for winter. They fly kites to celebrate the season. Hare’s kite zooms into the sky, while Tortoise’s lifts off slowly and steadily. The wind picks up and the kites tug and swirl, another reminder of how different their rhythms are, but how much joy they can find in shared moments.

Winter returns. Tortoise prepares to hibernate. Hare feels discouraged: they still haven’t raced! But just as she’s about to give up, Tortoise tells her, “Now.” Hare dashes ahead, then circles back to check on Tortoise. When they cross the finish line, it’s not about who won, it’s about what they’ve learned along the way. As they reflect on the year they’ve spent together, Hare begins to understand that slowing down can help you see the world in a whole new way.

Themes of the Show

- Finding Your Own Pace
- Growing Up
- Waiting
- Friendship

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Talk About It!

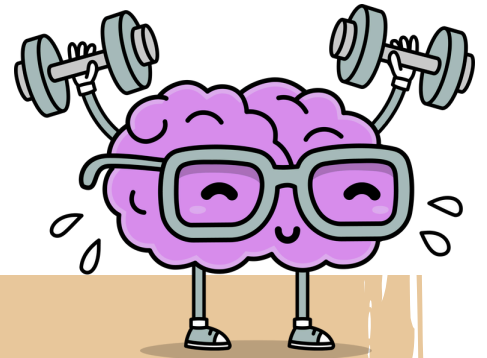
Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? How did that feel?
- ★ What things change with the seasons? What changes in nature, or in the foods you eat or the activities you do?
- ★ When is it good to do things quickly? When is it good to take your time?

Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ Are you more like Hare or Tortoise? In what ways?
- ★ What did Hare and Tortoise learn during the play?
- ★ If Hare and Tortoise raced again, what do you think would happen?
- ★ This story is a fable - that means it has a central lesson, or moral, for the audience to learn. What do you think the moral is?

Discover It!



What is a Fable?

- A fable is a short and simple story, usually with animal characters that talk and act like people.
- Fables are written to teach us a lesson about life, like how to be kind, honest, or patient. This lesson is called a moral.
- Think of a fable like a story that helps us grow into better people!

Aesop's Fables

- 'Hare & Tortoise' is adapted from a story in Aesop's Fables, a famous collection of fables from Ancient Greece.
- These stories were passed down as a spoken tradition for many years before being written down about 2000 years ago.
- Other famous fables from Aesop include 'The Lion and the Mouse' and 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf.'



Did You Know?

- Not much is known about Aesop! Some people think he was an enslaved person who wrote or collected lots of stories. Others think "a story of Aesop" was just a name for fables centering on animals and that Aesop himself never existed.

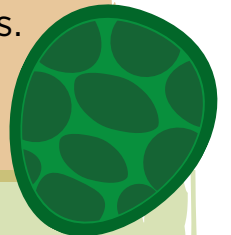


Fast Facts about Hares

- Hares are very fast. They can run up to 45 miles per hour!
- Hares have long ears and strong legs made for running and jumping.
- Hares live in nests above the ground, not underground like rabbits. Also unlike rabbits, most hares prefer to live alone.
- Hares are born with fur and open eyes, ready to hop around!

Tortoise Time!

- Tortoises are very slow. They usually walk less than 1 mile per hour!
- A tortoise's hard shell protects its body.
- A tortoise is a type of turtle that lives on land and does not swim.
- Some tortoises can live for over 100 years!



Create It!



Handprint Carrots

After Tortoise and Hare plant carrot seeds together, Hare can't wait to eat them! Tortoise reminds Hare many times to be patient and wait for them to grow. As you make your handprint carrot, think about other things in life that are worth the wait.

You will need:

- ★ printable taproot template (on the next page)
- ★ green construction paper
- ★ scissors
- ★ coloring tools
- ★ glue
- ★ googly eyes (optional)



1

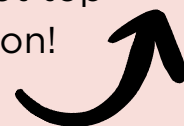
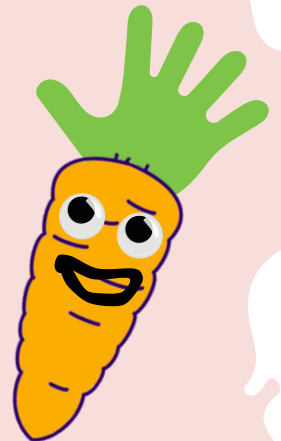
Create your taproot: carrots have a taproot (the orange part) and a top (the green leafy part). Print your taproot template, then cut it out and color it in. Add eyes and a mouth, or glue on googly eyes if you have them!

2

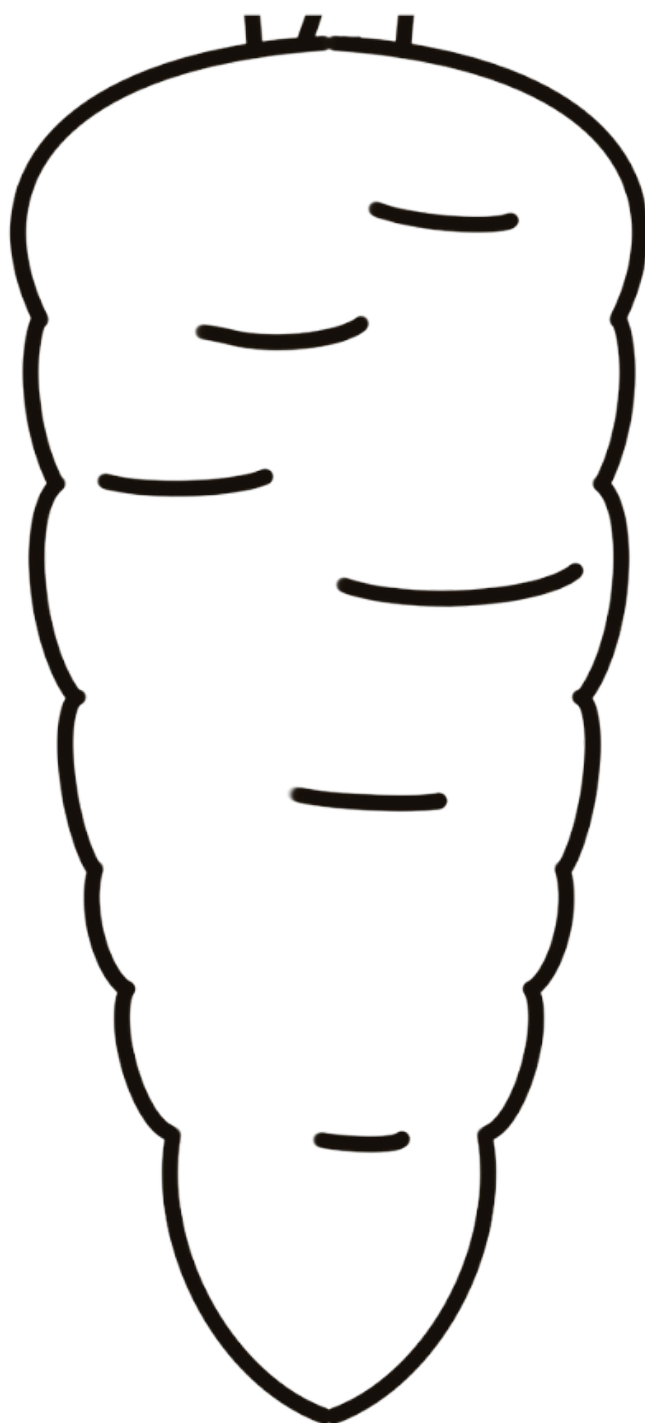
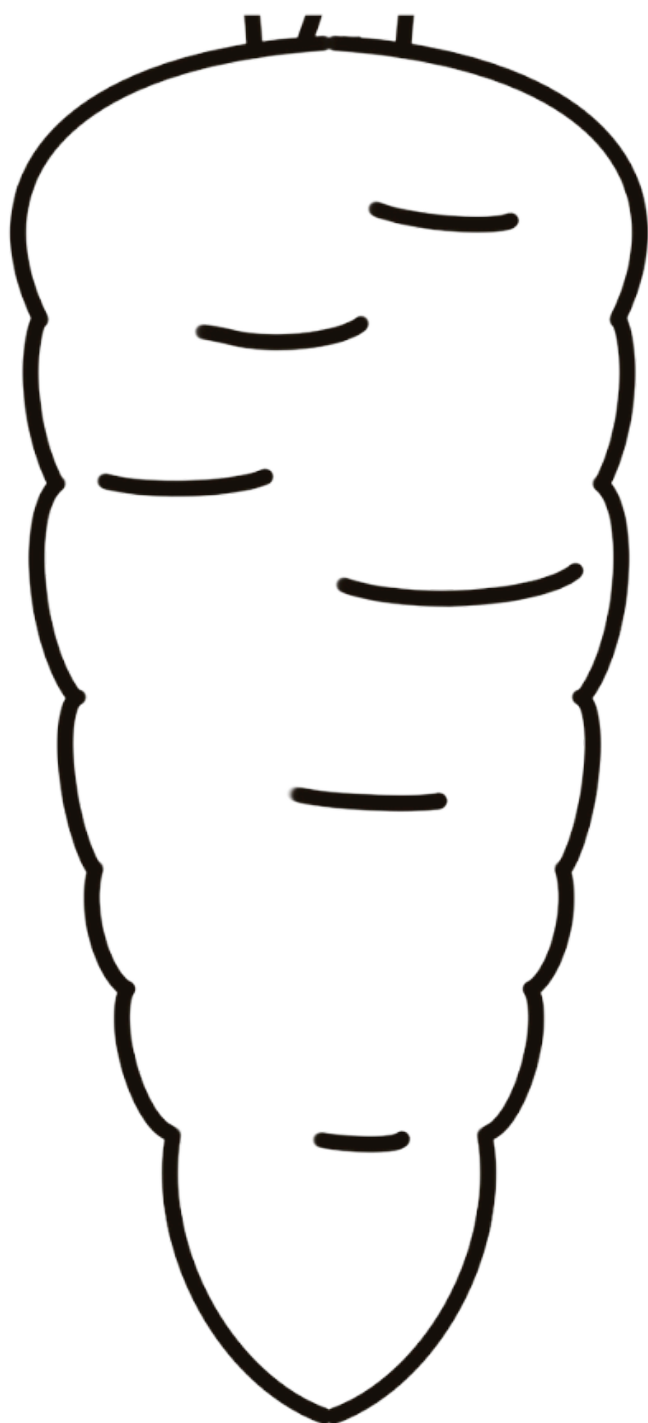
Trace your carrot top: trace your hand onto the green paper and cut that out too. If you don't have green paper, you can color or paint your carrot top instead.

3

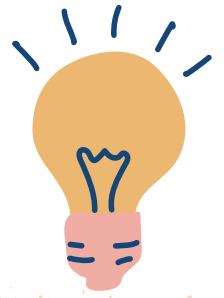
Put it together: use the glue to attach your carrot top to the taproot for a customized carrot to snack on!



Carrot Taproot Template



Imagine It!



Seasons Pantomime

Tortoise spends all year getting ready for the race! Many seasons pass, each at their own pace. Let's explore them with pantomime!

PANTOMIME is using your body and face to engage with imaginary objects or environments. As you pantomime each season, narrate your actions and invite your students to join you.

WINTER: Start asleep. Wake up, yawning, moving slowly. It is so cold! Brrr, we are shivering, shaking! Let's warm up our hands. Rub your hands together and warm yourself up.

SPRING: Notice it beginning to warm up. It's springtime! Take a deep breath and spread your arms like the branches of a tree. Let us plant some seeds. Dig a tiny hole. Place four tiny seeds in the hole and cover it gently with dirt.

SUMMER: While we wait for them to grow, notice it's getting even hotter! It's summer! We need to cool down. Let's dive into the swimming pool! Hold your breath, dive in and swim, swim, swim! That feels better.

FALL: The earth is becoming golden again. That means it's finally time to race! Do some simple stretches, then, running in place, we will race! 1, 2, 3, go! Switch up speeds: run really fast, then run reeeaaaalllly slow, and cross the finish line! We did it! Celebrate!

WINTER RETURNS: Yawn and stretch. Our bodies are so tired now from all that racing. Curl up for a nap.

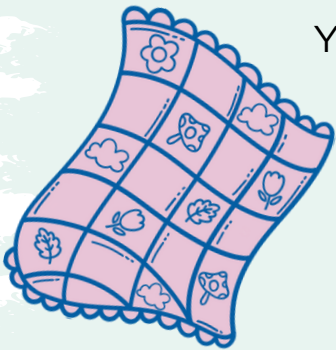


Share It!



Community Quilt of the Seasons

Hare and Tortoise go through all four seasons together; as winter settles in, Hare tucks Tortoise into a warm, comfy nest. Warm your heart with a quilt inspired by the beauty of the seasons and the uniqueness of your class community.

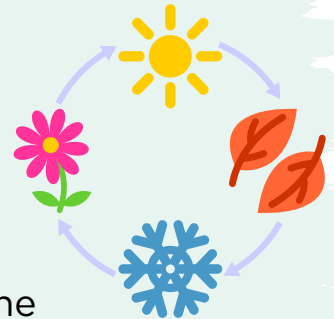


- You will need:
- ☆ 5-inch squares of white paper
 - ☆ 6-inch squares of colored paper
 - ☆ coloring tools - crayons, markers, colored pencils, or paint
 - ☆ glue or tape

1

As a class, brainstorm things that connect to each season, for example:

- Spring: flowers, rain, baby animals
- Summer: sunshine, beaches, ice cream
- Fall: leaves, pumpkins, apples
- Winter: snowflakes, mittens, hot cocoa



2

Assign each student a season to draw. Let everyone choose their favorite season or assign the seasons evenly to keep the quilt balanced.

3

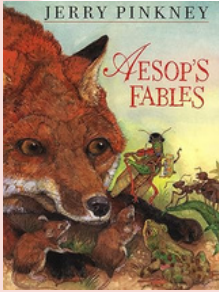
Give each student a white square, coloring materials, and some time to get inspired! Offer a variety of options for representing their season: through a nature scene, a drawing of seasonal foods or activities, or even an abstract design using the colors of their season.

4

Assemble your quilt! Mount each quilt section to a colored square and arrange them in a grid. Hang your quilt directly on the wall or on a large piece of butcher paper or fabric.

Read About It!

Keep the conversation going! Check out this list of books connected to the ideas and themes in 'Hare & Tortoise'!



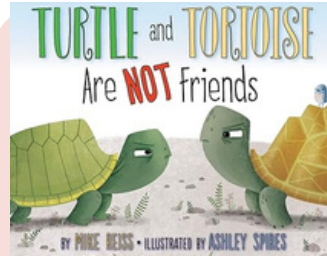
Aesop's Fables

By Jerry Pinkney
Ages 6-9



Tofu Takes Time

By Helen H. Wu
Ages 4-8



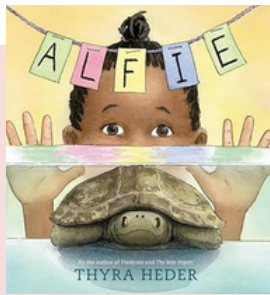
Turtle and Tortoise Are Not Friends

By Mike Reiss
Ages 4-8



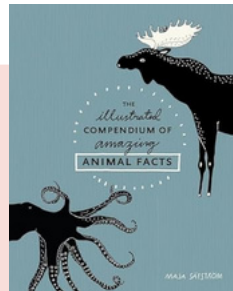
Seasons

By Hannah Pang
Ages 3-7



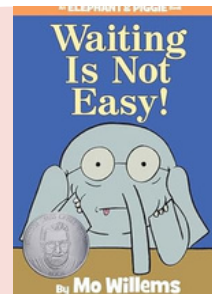
Alfie: (The Turtle That Disappeared)

By Thyra Heder
Ages 4-8



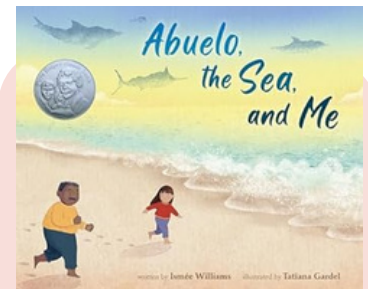
The Illustrated Compendium of Amazing Animal Facts

By Maja Säfström
Ages 6-10



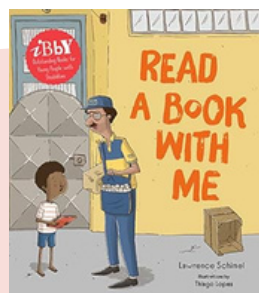
Waiting is Not Easy!

By Mo Willems
Ages 4-8



Abuelo, the Sea, and Me

By Ismée Williams
Ages 4-8



Read a Book with Me

By Lawrence Schimel
Ages 3-8



Alex & Alex
By Ziggy Hanaor
Ages 3-6



Extend It!

The play is just the beginning - there's always more to learn. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to dig deeper into what interests you!

- ★ Go on a nature scavenger hunt!
- ★ Create a rainstorm using body percussion!
- ★ Read an interactive book of Aesop's Fables!



Extend the Experience!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play.

Email us at:

CPEducation@childsplayaz.org

#SHAREWITHUS

Follow us on social media and share your comments & photos!

#ChildsplayAZ

#HareTortoise

We also love getting mail!

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Tempe, AZ 85281



About Childsplay

Our mission is to ignite imagination, wonder and joy by creating strikingly original theatre and learning experiences that inspire young minds to explore and soar.

For more information:

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