

Tortoise finds his house

Maya Fowler
English



One day Tortoise was walking through the veld. He was looking and looking. He gazed into the distance and squinted at the grass. Then he went past Snail.



“Are you looking for something?” Snail asked.

“Yes, Snail, I’m looking for my house. Have you seen it, by any chance?”



Snail said: “No, I haven’t, but I’ll help you look!”

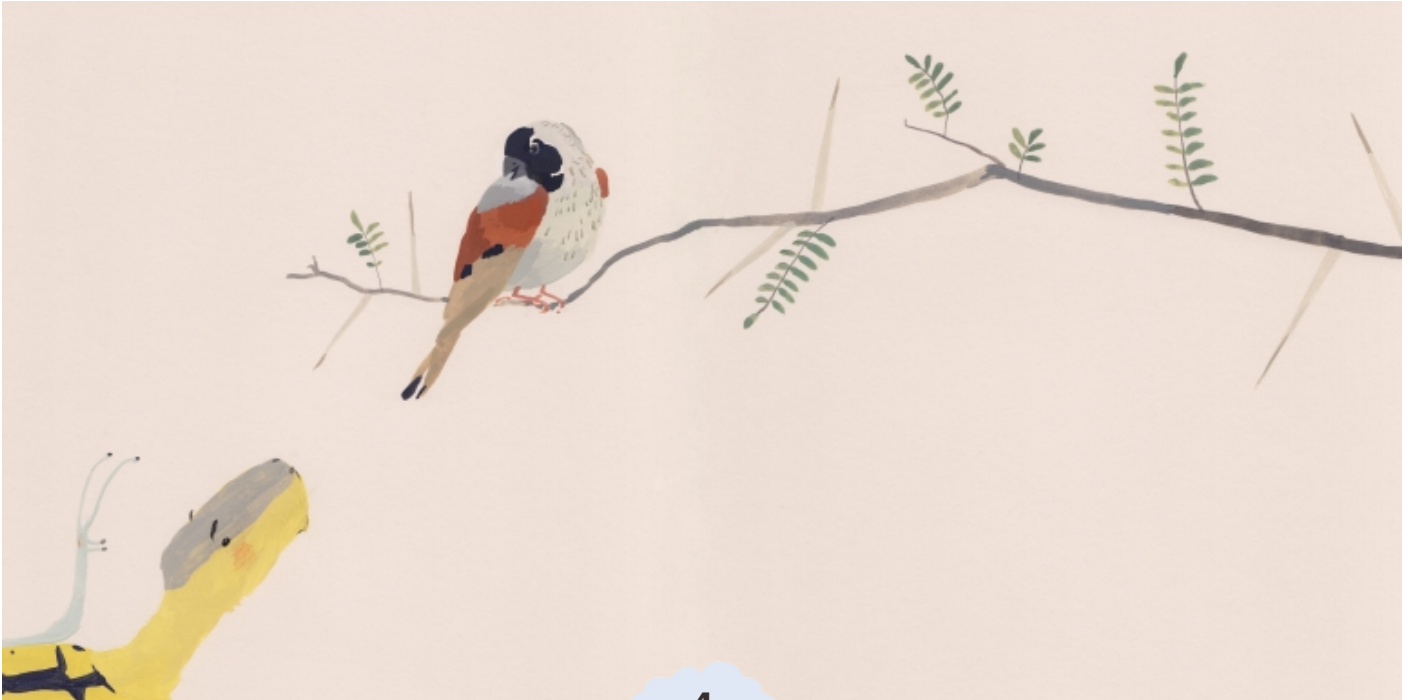
She climbed onto Tortoise’s shell. Tortoise walked on with Snail on his back. They looked and looked, but there was no sign of a house. The sun was high in the sky.

A little later they passed Sparrow.

“Are you looking for something?” asked Sparrow.

“Yes, Sparrow, I’m looking for my house. Have you seen it, by any chance?”

Sparrow said: “No, I haven’t, but I’ll help you look!”



He flapped his wings and he whizzed away.
“But you’re going too fast for me,” complained Tortoise.
Sparrow came back. “Alright, then I’ll hop on too.”





Tortoise carried on, with Snail and Sparrow perched on his shell. They looked and looked, but there was no sign of a house. The sun had inched lower in the sky.

A little later they passed Ladybird.

“Are you looking for something?” asked Ladybird.

“Yes, Ladybird, I’m looking for my house. Have you seen it, by any chance?”



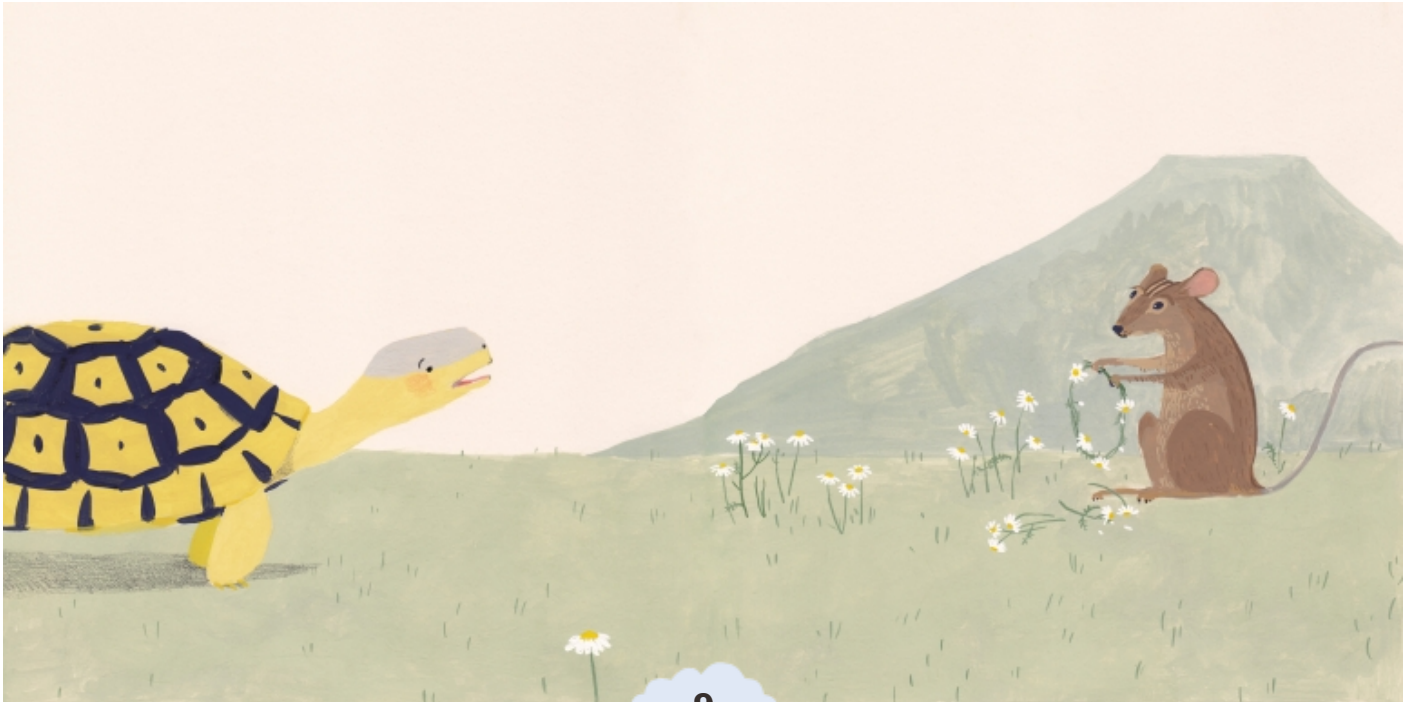
Ladybird said: “No, I haven’t,
but I’ll help you look!”

She hopped onto Tortoise’s
back and on he went,
with Snail and Sparrow and
Ladybird sitting on his
back.

They looked and looked, but
there was no sign of a
house. A breeze started to blow.



A little later they passed Mouse. He was making a garland of daisies.
“Are you looking for something?” asked Mouse.
“Yes, Mouse, I’m looking for my house. Have you seen it, by any chance?”



Mouse said: “No, I haven’t, but I’ll help you look!”
He hopped onto Tortoise’s back.
“Wait, I can’t leave my flowers behind.” Tortoise waited. Mouse stretched and stretched and scooped up his daisies.



Tortoise walked on, with Snail
and Sparrow and
Ladybird and Mouse on his
back. They looked and looked,
but there was no sign of a
house. The wind swept leaves
off the ground and swirled them
around Tortoise's feet.
Tortoise got tired. "You lot are
heavy," he sighed.



The wind got stronger. The sky turned dark.

“Oh, where is my house?” asked Tortoise.

Thunder roared in the hills.

Lightning flashed in the distance. Drip-drip came the rain.

“Oh, where is Tortoise’s house?” asked Snail and Sparrow and Ladybird and Mouse.



The wind whirled and whipped. It
blew Snail and Sparrow and Ladybird and Mouse right off Tortoise's back.



And then came the hail, tip-tip-tip.

Tortoise got such a fright he shrank into his shell. It was warm and cosy there.

“Oh, here is my house!”





“Oh, here is Tortoise’s house!”

Tortoise finds his house

Writer: Maya Fowler

Illustration: Katrien Coetzer

Translated By: Maya Fowler

Language: English



© Katrien Coetzer, Maya Fowler, Damian Gibbs,
bookdash.org and African Storybook Initiative, 2014



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
(CC-BY) Version 3.0 Unported Licence

Disclaimer: You are free to download, copy, translate or adapt this
story and use the illustrations as long as you attribute or credit the
original author/s and illustrator/s.

Book Dash is a movement of
volunteers working to create open-
licensed books for young readers,
and get these into the hands of
children. See more at
www.bookdash.org.



www.africanstorybook.org
A Saide Initiative