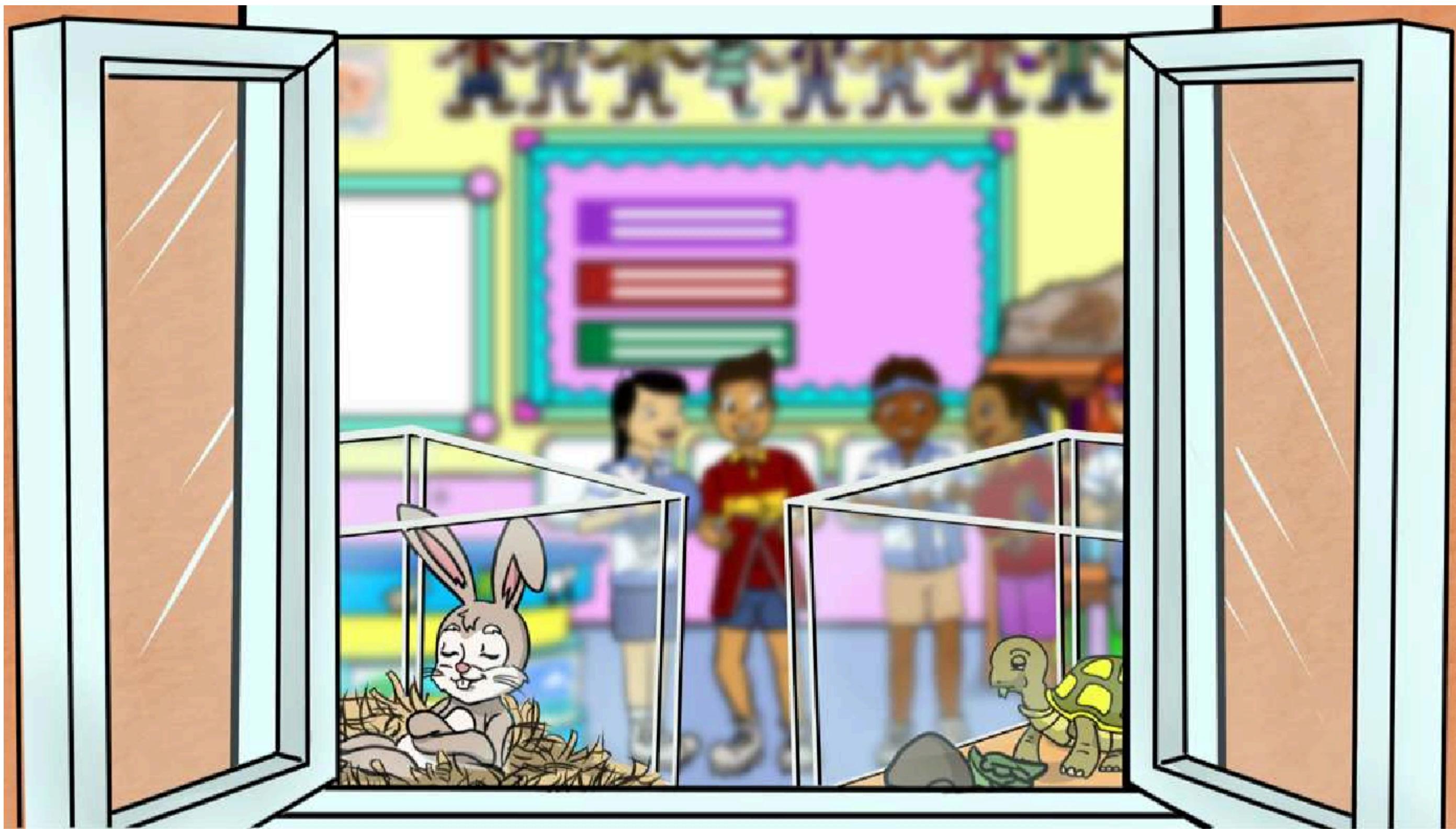




The Turtle and The Rabbit

Read
Aloud

Written by Joyce Catsimpiris
Illustrations by NAI



Of all the animals who lived in the classroom, Rabbit was the most famous for his incredible speed. Although everyone knew he was the fastest animal, he took every chance to brag and show off his talent. Some animals admired him, but others, like Turtle, were annoyed by his boastfulness.



One day, Rabbit was bragging to Turtle about how fast he was. Turtle snapped at him, "If you are so fast, let me see you prove it. I challenge you to a race!" Rabbit laughed, "What a joke! A turtle and a rabbit racing! I accept your challenge. This will be an easy race to win. I can outrun you in my sleep."



Rabbit immediately ran around the school field, announcing the competition. All the animals who lived near the school gathered together to watch the race.

"What is Turtle thinking?" Bluebird asked Deer. "She will never win a race against Rabbit!"

"I don't know," replied Deer, "But I hope Turtle has a plan to win. I am tired of always hearing Rabbit boast about his speed."



The animals chose a start and finish line. "Ready, set, go!" yelled Fox. The other animals watched and cheered.

Rabbit sprung from the starting line with his incredible speed. Turtle crawled slowly in the same direction. Soon, Rabbit was out of sight, and Turtle was far behind him.



In no time, Rabbit was halfway through the course. With Turtle nowhere in sight, he stopped. He thought to himself, "I have plenty of time to win. I'll rest and watch the game." Rabbit found a shady spot under a tree, and soon he closed his eyes and fell asleep.



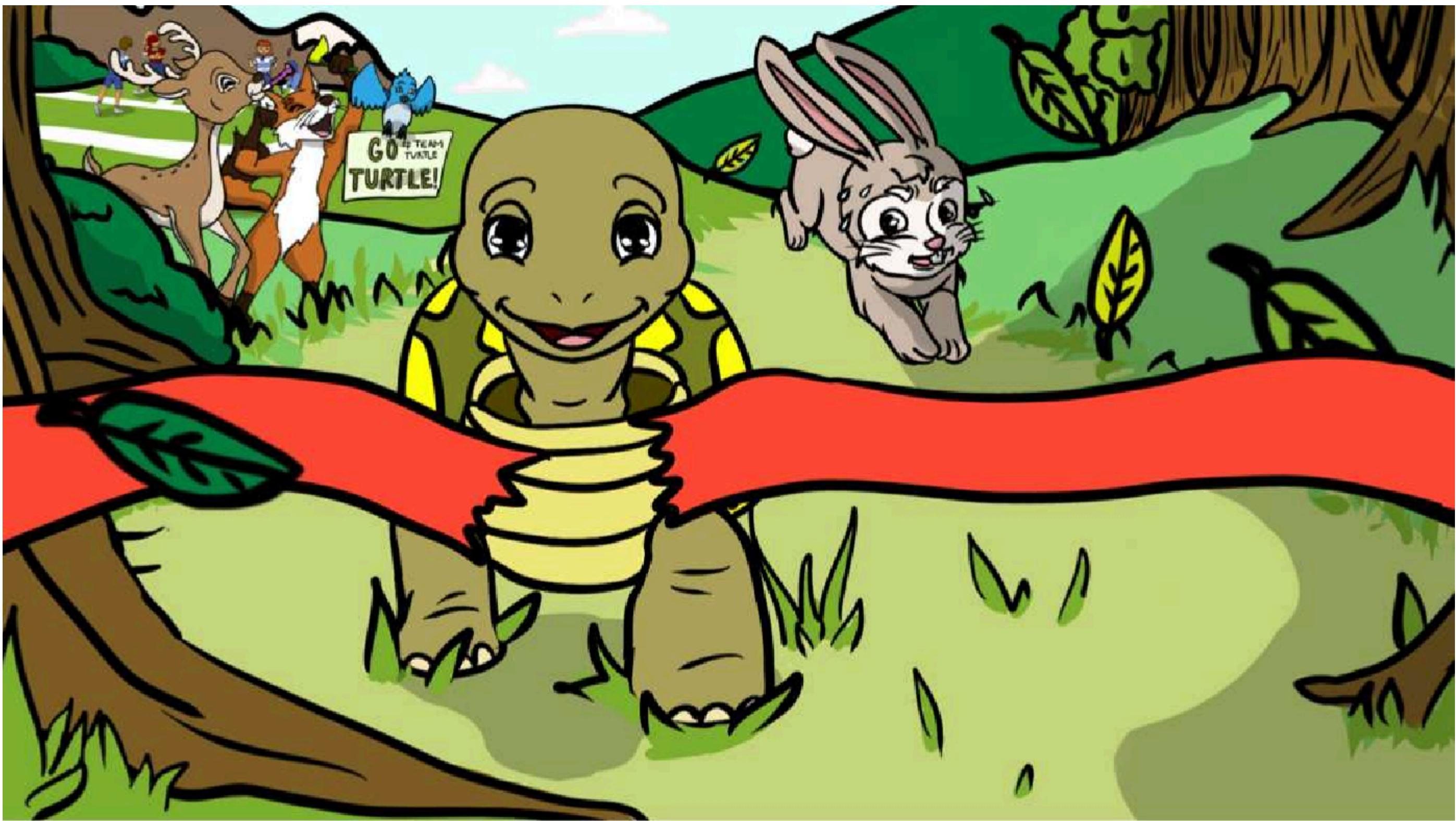
Meanwhile, Turtle plodded steadily at her slow pace. She put one foot in front of the other, again and again, never stopping.

Before long, she passed the sleeping Rabbit. She did not stop, and continued to push herself towards the finish line.



A little while later, Rabbit woke up from his nap. He looked around and he did not see Turtle.

"Ha!" he exclaimed, "I took a nap, and Turtle still has not caught up to me." He dashed off again, but as he came around the corner, much to his amazement...



Turtle was crossing the finish line, and all the animals were cheering her on!
Rabbit yelled "NO! It just can't be. My eyes must be fooling me!"
But Rabbit was the foolish one.



The animals clapped and cheered for Turtle. Rabbit could not believe that he lost to the slowest animal in the forest.

"Slow and steady wins the race!" cheered the other animals.

"I learned an important lesson today, congratulations Turtle!" smiled Rabbit.



The next day, when it was Kim's turn to feed the classroom pets, something was different...

The Turtle

and

The Rabbit

