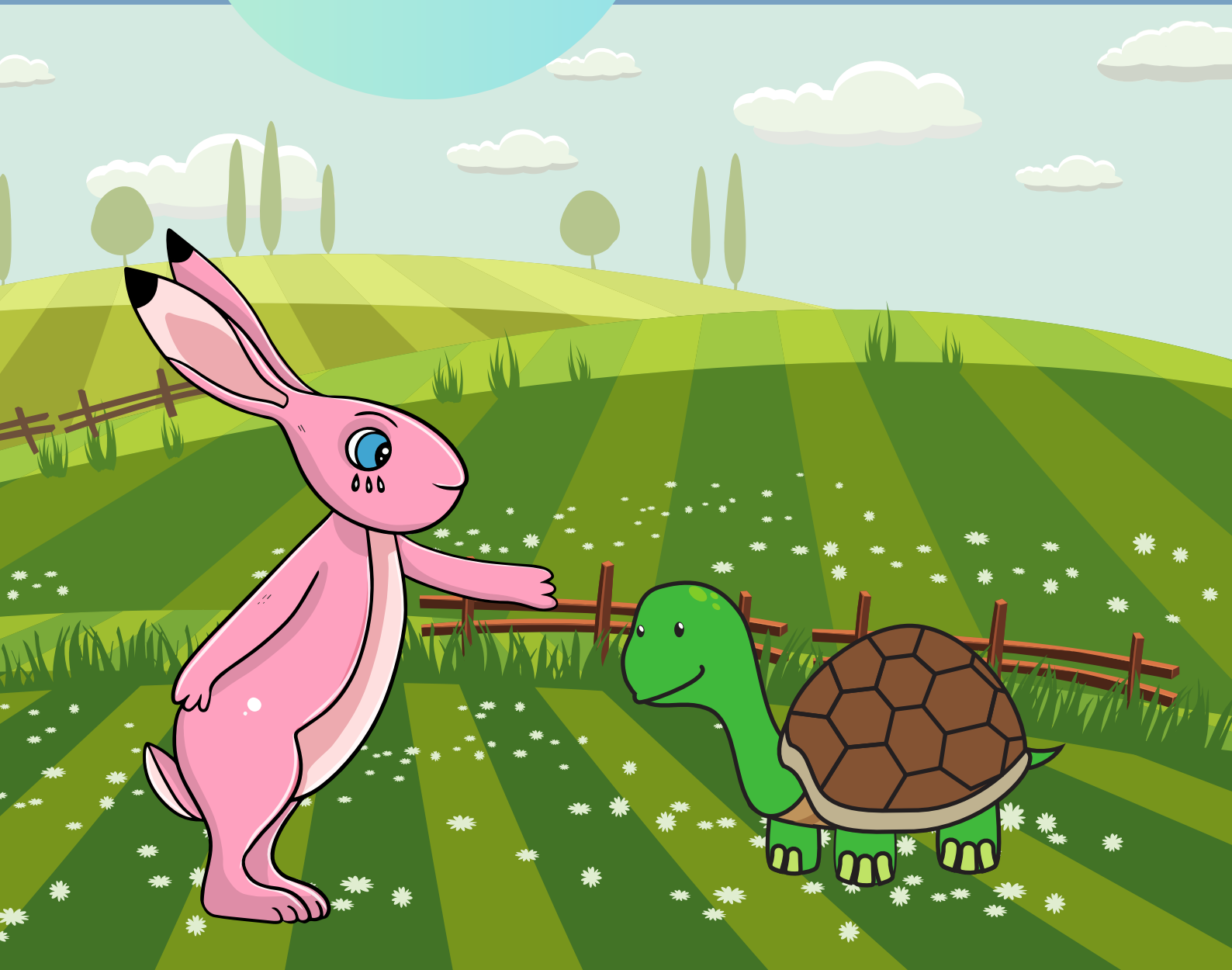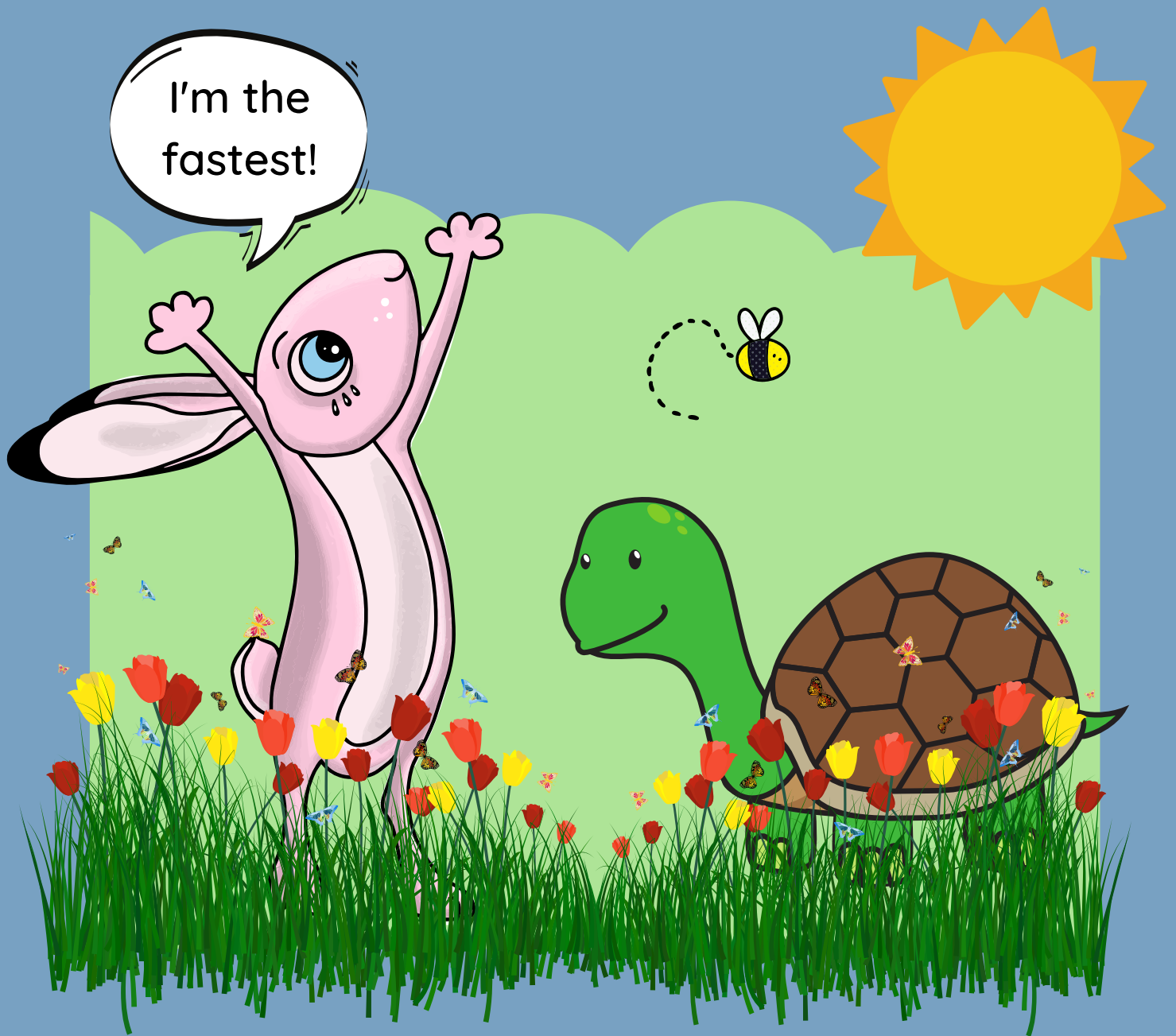# Tortoise and Hare

By The Literacy Company

Once upon a time, in a field somewhere near you,  Hare was teasing Tortoise for being too slow.

"Tortoise, do you ever get anywhere?" asked cheeky Hare. " I am the fastest animal in the whole world!" he boasted.

Tortoise chewed a few lettuce leaves and he told Hare that he was a solid walker.

"I can get to places sooner than you think. I'll show you! Should we have a race?" asked Tortoise.
Tortoise chose Wise Old Owl to sort out the race for the next day.

The next morning the sun shone through the trees and it warmed the land. All the animals gathered to watch the race between Hare and Tortoise. The two animals lined up at the starting line and Owl shouted, "On your marks. Get set. GO!"

On your marks. Get set. GO!

Hare sped off with a cloud of dust behind him. He was soon out of sight. Meanwhile Tortoise plodded along enjoying the sun on his shell. On and on he plodded stopping now and then for a nibble of some grass.

Hare checked behind him. No sign of Tortoise. He thought he would win this race easily. "I'm going to stop for a little nap in this hot sun," he thought. Hare snuggled up to an oak tree near the path and he nodded off to sleep.

Tortoise continued to plod on and he passed the spot where Hare was sleeping.

On and on he plodded until the end of the race was in sight.

All of the animals shouted and cheered, "Hurray for Tortoise!"
All the noise woke Hare up. "What's that noise?" he wondered. He got up and he raced to the finish line. To his horror he saw that Tortoise was already there. Hare had lost! He felt very unhappy but Tortoise was kind and cheered him up.

From that day Hare knew fastest didn't mean best. Hare and Tortoise became good friends and Hare never boasted again!