The Hare and the Tortoise
by Aesop

From "Aesop's Fables"

A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.

"Do you ever get anywhere?" he asked with a mocking laugh.

"Yes," replied the Tortoise, "and I get there sooner than you think. I'll run you a race and prove it."

The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up.

The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time.

The race is not always to the swift.
1. What does the Hare make fun of the Tortoise for?
   A. The Hare makes fun of the Tortoise for being so slow.
   B. The Hare makes fun of the Tortoise for being so fat.
   C. The Hare makes fun of the Tortoise for being so ugly.

2. Which animal would probably have won the race if the Hare had not taken a nap?
   A. the Fox
   B. the Hare
   C. the Tortoise

3. Read this sentence from the text:

   "The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time."

   What does the word "swiftest" probably mean here?
   A. coldest
   B. slowest
   C. fastest

4. Read this sentence from the text:

   "But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal."

   How could this sentence best be broken in two?
   A. But the Hare slept on very peacefully? When at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal.
   B. But the Hare slept on very peacefully. When at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal.
C. But the Hare slept on very peacefully. When at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal?

5. Describe the Tortoise.

Include two or more details from the story in your answer.

6. Describe the Hare.

Support your answer with evidence from the text and images.

7. What is one trait the Tortoise has that helps him win the race?

Support your answer with evidence from the text and images.

8. One of the main characters in the story is the Hare. What is the other main character?
   A. the Fox
   B. the Tortoise
   C. There is no other main character in the story.

9. The Tortoise wins the race. What evidence in the text supports this conclusion?
   A. "A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow."
   B. "The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise."
   C. "The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time."

10. What is the theme of this story?
    A. You can be successful at something by doing it slowly and steadily.
    B. You should always get a good night’s sleep before a contest.
    C. You should not take part in contests that you cannot win.