

The Tortoise & The Ducks



Reading Comprehension Activity Book

Original Story by Æsop for Children
Group 1 – Book 2

Name _____ Date _____

By Donnette E Davis

Preface:

Welcome to our collection of comprehension activity books for early readers. I have sourced public domain material for these books and have adapted and digitally reconstructed them to fulfil the purpose of these books.

Probably the single most important aspect of your child's early academic development is learning to read and acquiring and sustaining a love of reading. Of course any child's interest needs to be perked in order for them to want to read and read and read and slowly progress from simple books with large illustrations and words to longer books with fewer illustrations and smaller words. The journey to a love of reading is rarely accomplished overnight, but once you have reached that destination, a whole new world will open up for your child where he or she can visit places only dreamed about, live in that beautiful castle, become friends with the fairies and take a safari trip to Africa, perhaps even journey to the centre of the earth!

At the end of this story you will find notes for discussion and comprehension questions. In groups 1, 2 and 3 I have no doubt that your child will require some assistance in understanding the questions. This is where I encourage fun interaction between educator and learner. It may be so that you will need to record their answers and suggestions on the pages required. This subtle exercise will go far to show you in a year or less how far your child has progressed and where his or her interests lie and to enhance and encourage a love of reading. Positive interaction between you and your child will make this a fun learning experience as he or she watches you do your "homework". Who said homeschooling isn't hands on? ☺

You will be able to decide which questions and discussion points are appropriate for your child. The purpose of this exercise is to establish the understanding of the story and the concept and to enhance concentration, listening and reading skills.

I really do hope that you and your child enjoy doing these exercises as much as Savannah, Clarissa and myself have enjoyed compiling them. I cannot stress enough the importance of allowing your child to develop at his or her own pace. There is no need to progress to a more advanced book, no matter how short, until you and your child are quite confident that he or she has grasped the first story and that he or she is quite comfortable with the discussion and questions that are an integral part of this reading comprehension activity.

As always I wish you and your child a most blessed, fun and informative educational journey. ☺

Donnette E Davis

THE TORTOISE AND THE DUCKS



The Tortoise, as you know, carries his house on his back. No matter how hard he tries, he cannot leave home. They say that Jupiter punished him, because he was such a lazy stay-at-home that he would not go to Jupiter's wedding, even when he was especially invited.

After many years, Tortoise began to wish he had gone to that wedding. When he saw how happily the birds flew about and how the Hare and the Chipmunk and all the other animals ran quickly by, always eager to see everything there was to be seen, the Tortoise felt very sad and discontented. He wanted to see the world too, and there he was with a house stuck on his back and little short legs that could hardly drag him along.

One day he met a pair of Ducks and told them all his troubles.

"We can help you to see the world," said the Ducks. "Take hold of this stick with your teeth and we will carry you far up in the air where you can see the whole countryside. But keep quiet – don't talk at all or you will be sorry."

The Tortoise was very glad indeed. He popped the stick in his mouth and grabbed it firmly with his teeth, the two Ducks took hold of it one at each end, and away they sailed up toward the clouds.

Just then a Crow flew by. He was very much astonished at the strange sight and cried:

"This must surely be the King of Tortoises!"

"Why certainly——" began the Tortoise.

But as he opened his mouth to say these foolish words he lost his hold on the stick, and down he fell to the ground and that was the end of his travels looking at the world.

The Moral of this story:

Foolish curiosity and vanity often lead to unpleasant things.

The End.

Comprehension Questions

Note to Parents: Your little one will probably need some assistance with the questions, in explaining some of the phrases. Allow him or her to describe their answer in detail. It may be beneficial to ask him or her to draw pictures to illustrate the answer, or, if you prefer, it is fun to record the answers yourself and refer back to them in a few months' time. You will be the best person to choose which questions are appropriate for your child.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the main character? Can you describe him?
2. What was the problem?
3. How did the character deal with the problem?
4. Tell about three events that happened in the story.
5. Should the character have done something differently? What? Why?
6. What did you learn from this story?

ANSWERS

1. _____

2. _____

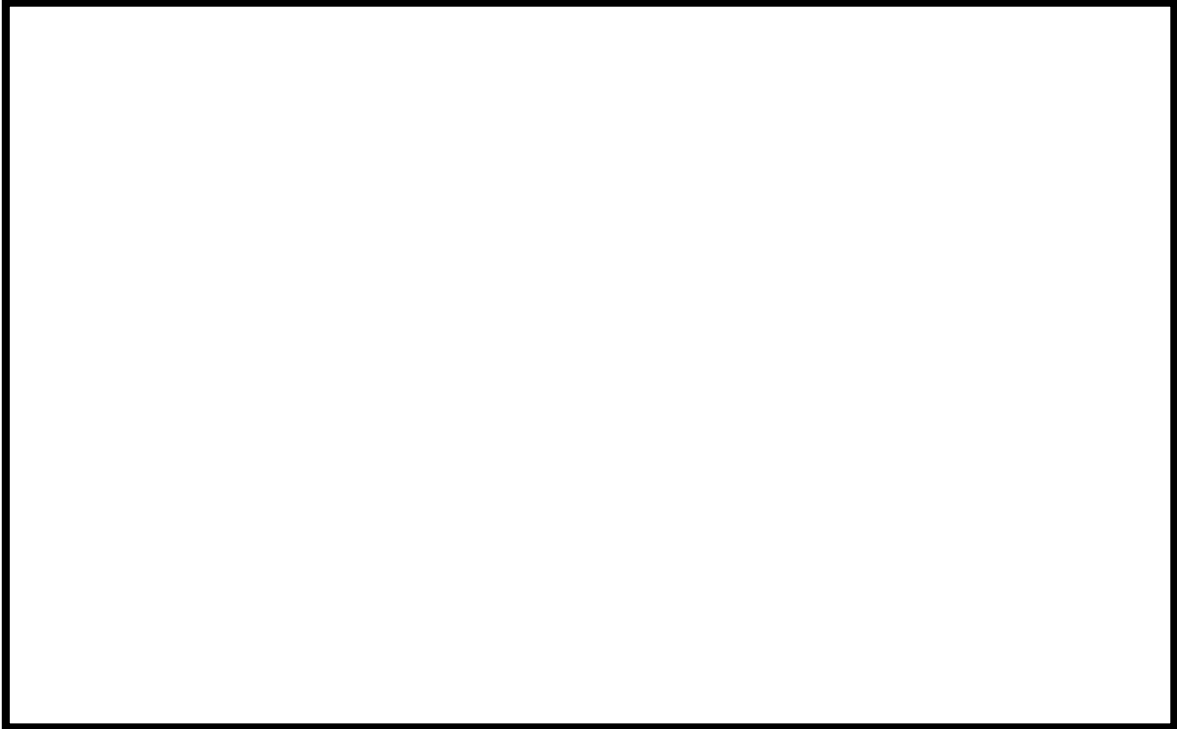
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Can you draw a picture from this story?



What have you drawn in your picture? Can you describe it?

Did you enjoy this story? What was your favourite part?

We would love to hear your comments on this workbook. If you have a moment please email your comments and suggestions to feedback@staidenshomeschool.com

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These units have been compiled together with and by my daughters Savannah and Clarissa, who have had enormous fun doing "dictionary work" and then sourcing appropriate graphics. A variety of clipart resources have been used, most notably Microsoft Clipart Collections, Barry's Clip Art, FG-A, Wikipedia, Wiki-Know, www.keltawebconcepts.com.au and Free Classroom Clipart. Copyright free images were also sourced through Google. Clipart more recently sourced via <http://www.designedtoat.com> & <http://free-clipart.net> who have an amazing selection of really fun and friendly images. © Millions of thanks to Cherry Carl (USA) for having been my inspiration in these works.

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