



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Howard Calvert is an author and a journalist. As well as writing books for children, he writes about adventure and travel, health and fitness, and food and drink for newspapers, magazines and websites. He lives in Hampshire with his wife and two daughters and enjoys getting covered in mud while trail riding or mountain biking.

Karen Obuhanych is a Hawaii-based illustrator who enjoys working with all types of paint, pencils and digital media. She is also the author/illustrator of the *This Little Kitty* books published by Random House.

WEBSITES

<https://howardcalvert.com>
<https://www.kloart.com/artist-bio.htm/>

LINKS

Animal Fact File about Leopard Tortoises (recent film with subtitles, lasting 4.27 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBWAAd8jfpPM>
Animated rhyming version of Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare (subtitles, 4.21 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfsGU4L7iTw>



THE FASTEST TORTOISE IN TOWN

Younger Children Shortlist 2024

INTRODUCTION

An amusing reworking of the **traditional story** about *The Hare and the Tortoise*. Told from the point of view of a **pet tortoise** called Barbara Hendricks, whose owner has entered her into a race against other animals. In spite of the tortoise's self-doubt, her owner Lorraine, puts her on a training programme. Unbeknown to the tortoise, her competitors are not the fastest of **animals** themselves, but she determinedly forges ahead and wins the race! With renewed confidence, Barbara Hendricks happily accepts the hare's challenge to race ... Can your child or children predict what might happen?

ACTIVITIES

Read a version of the original story about the tortoise and the hare. Explore other fables by Aesop and talk about some of the moral lessons of the stories. For example: 'slow and steady wins the race'.

Write and illustrate Watch the film about Leopard Tortoises (in the Links) and make a list of key words to find definitions for (such as reptile, herbivore, habitat, solitary, predators, diurnal). Either independently or collaboratively write a short, illustrated information text about Leopard Tortoises living in the wild.

Create a paper tortoise by following these simple instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miqi5u8D6nM> This is a simple craft activity suitable for book clubs/groups. In school, the tortoises could be included in a table-top or wall display.

NOW READ ON

The Hare and the Tortoise by Brian Wildsmith (OUP, 2007) A reissue edition of a beautifully illustrated simple retelling of the fable.

Illustrated Stories from Aesop by Susanna Davidson & Giuliano Ferri (Usborne Publishing, 2013) Explore more of Aesop's fables in this collection of timeless stories.

Animal Records; Animals: Would You Rather?; Animals Joke Book (National Geographic Kids Books) A selection of full colour, entertaining information books about the amazing world of animals.