

THE TORTOISE

By Cortney De Meillon, Maimoonah Sadien & Melissa Harribi

On a bright spring day, Tortoise decided to go on a little adventure. As he was meandering through the blossoming field, he suddenly stopped and saw a group of other animals playing joyfully together under a big oak tree not too far ahead.

“This must be fun!” he thought, “I wonder if I can go and join them”. He then graciously and decided to join them but soon found that they were rather nasty and mean as they began to poke fun at the big, brown and heavy shell on his back. They told him that he could not join in on their games because he was far too slow and this made the tortoise very sad!

One after the other, the animals had something very nasty to say about him- “your shell is ugly”, “you are too slow”, “I do not want to play with you.” Just then, Tortoise got fed up and climbed up a nearby rock and firmly instructed them to stop! He began to tell them about the countless times that his trusty shell had protected him from predators in dark forests, extreme weather conditions and most of all when he felt scared. Without a fail, his shell always kept him safe and cosy.

The other animals looked at him in awe, for they thought his shell served no purpose. His shell was no longer seen as an ugly shelter on his back but rather a beautiful shield that protects him from the bad. They were also very surprised at how he stood up for themselves and they soon realized how nasty and mean they were being.

“Oh no, we are sorry for being so mean!” apologized for one of the animals. “Please accept our apology and come play with us, we promise to never poke fun at your or any other animal ever again,” said another. Tortoise kindly chose to forgive them as he knew that they had grown to respect him and his trusty shell.

Tortoise’s words have taught the other animals a great lesson of bravery and kindness. Thereafter, they played happily together under the big oak tree until the sun began to set and all the animals returned safely home where they told their families all about the Tortoise’s trusty shell.



RESPECT

