Great Arizona Puppet Theater’s

JACK RABBIT

&

THE DESERT TORTOISE

based on a fable by Aesop

Activity Booklet
JACK RABBIT & THE DESERT TORTOISE

Jack Rabbit thought he was the fastest thing on four legs. "I can beat anybody in a race!" he boasted. And he ran right over anybody who got in his way.
Desert Tortoise grew tired of his bragging. "I'll race you," he said.
"You have got to be kidding!" laughed Jack Rabbit.
"No, I'm not," said Tortoise. They agreed to race the next day.
That night Tortoise went home and got a good night's sleep. But Jack Rabbit stayed up and partied all night.
The next morning was the day of the big race. All the animals gathered to watch and cheer. Tortoise was there early, warming up, and getting ready for the race. Jack Rabbit dashed in just before the race was to begin. "On your mark, get set, go!" hollered the announcer.
Jack Rabbit sped off leaving Tortoise behind. But Tortoise didn’t even seem to mind. He just kept going.
Jack Rabbit ran by a prickly pear and decided to have a little snack. He hadn’t had time for breakfast. He ate quite a bit of delicious prickly pear fruit and looked behind him. Tortoise was nowhere in sight. So he decided to take a little nap.
It took Tortoise quite a long time to reach the prickly pear but when he did Jack Rabbit was still napping. Tortoise passed him and kept on going.
As Tortoise neared the Finish Line, Jack Rabbit woke up. He ran as fast as he could and easily passed Tortoise. But just before he reached the Finish Line he got a terrible cramp in his stomach. He had eaten too much prickly pear! He fell to the ground and Tortoise passed by and won the race.
WHO DID WHAT?
A post-show activity

Think about the story that you just saw acted out by the puppets. See if you can remember WHO DID WHAT?

Who . . .

. . . boasted he was fastest? __________

. . . took a nap? __________

. . . got a good night's sleep? __________

. . . warmed up before the race? __________

. . . skipped breakfast? __________

. . . won the race? __________
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AFTER THE SHOW

1. Why did the Tortoise think it was important to get a good night’s sleep the night before the race? Do you try and get to bed early before a big day? Did you go to bed early last night knowing you were going to the puppet theater today?

2. Jack Rabbit stopped during the race to eat a prickly pear fruit (much like we might snack on a piece of candy). Later he got a stomach ache. Why do you think this happened? Is it important to eat a good breakfast every day? Did you eat a good breakfast today?

3. We all know that a rabbit is faster than a tortoise. But in this story, the tortoise wins the race. What happened? How did the tortoise win?

4. This story has a moral - a special meaning that teaches us a lesson about life. Can you guess what the moral of this story is?
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MAKE A COLLAGE!

A Post-Show Activity

You'll need old magazines, scissors, glue and construction paper. Cut out pictures of things that you saw or heard about in the puppet show (rabbits, tortoises, other animals, cactus). Cut these out and glue them on a bright piece of construction paper. Explain each picture on your collage to someone else.
MAKE YOUR OWN PUPPETS!

Make your own special rabbit and tortoise puppet.

Rabbit:
Take a fuzzy sock. The toe will be your rabbit’s nose. Cut eyes, ear, nose and whiskers out of felt or construction paper. Glue them on the sock. Glue a cotton ball where his tail should be.

Tortoise:
Turn a small paper bowl upside down to make a shell. Use markers, paint, and crayons to make shapes on the shell and color them in. Cut 4 legs, a pointy tail, and a rounded head out of brown construction paper. Draw eyes on the tortoise’s head. Glue the flat side of the legs, tail and head to the underside of the bowl along the rim. The body parts should poke out from under the bowl like a tortoise would from under its shell.

Have fun making up your own story with your rabbit and tortoise!