

Talking While You Read

When you read together, talk with your child about the book. Talking develops your child's vocabulary and understanding of the book.

Choose a book with detailed pictures and of interest to your child. First, read the entire book to your child. Next, read the book again, stopping on every page or every other page to have a conversation using PEER:

Prompt your child to say something about the book by asking a question. Ask **wh** questions (who? what? when? where? why? how?).

Evaluate your child's response.

Expand your child's response by rephrasing and adding information to it.

Repeat the prompt.

Use PEER with any book.



The Tortoise and the Hare by Aesop (with example prompts)

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."

What is a Hare? What is a Tortoise?

What does mocking mean? Why was the Hare making fun of the Tortoise?

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.

What does amuse mean? Why was the Hare amused?

What does consented mean?"



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.

Why did the Hare think the Tortoise should feel ridiculous? If you were the Hare, how would you run the race?

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 moral, or lesson, of the story is: slow and steady wins the race.

Who won the race? Why?

What does swiftest mean?"



Kosanovich, M., Lee, L., & Foorman, B. (2021). A Second-Grade Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills (REL 2021-053). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast. Retrieved from <https://ies.ed.gov/ies/2025/01/second-grade-teachers-guide-supporting-family-involvement-foundational-reading-skills>