

# **SUCCESS ACADEMY**

## **2009-2010**

### **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE**

# **Student Packet**

SESSION #4

**Focus Lesson:**  
*Pool Safety*

**Instructional Passage**  
*The Hare and the Tortoise*



# POOL SAFETY

**S**wimming pools are fun places. But they can also be dangerous. Many accidents happen in and around pools. So learn these few, important safety tips. Then pass them along to your family—you'll make a big splash.



GEORGE SHELL/EVERETT'S STOCK MARKET

1. Learn to swim. It will make being around water much safer—and more enjoyable. To learn how to swim, enroll at your local YMCA or community pool.
2. Never swim anywhere without an adult watching you. If there's trouble in the water, you will need an adult to help you. It is also a good idea to have a swimming buddy with you in the water, too.
3. Some pools have covers over them. They keep out leaves and dirt, as well as small kids. Never swim if the cover is partly on. You could get trapped underneath it.
4. There should always be a phone at or very near poolside. Or adults should be carrying cell phones. Emergency numbers must be posted right by the phone so that help can be called right away.
5. Diving can be very dangerous. Never dive into a pool that's less than nine feet deep. Also, don't dive into a pool built above ground. They are too shallow. If a pool is built below ground, don't dive from the side. Instead, enter the water feet first. If you know how to dive, do it only from the deep end of the pool—the side with a diving board. If you know how to dive, be sure your hands are in front of you. Always steer up as you enter the water, so you don't hit the bottom. If you use a pool slide, never slide head first. Always go feet first.
6. When you're in the water, don't push or dunk swimmers.
7. Be sure lifesaving equipment is near poolside. There should be a pole, life preservers, and rope. Hang them on a fence so people won't trip on them.
8. Don't fool around and scream for help if you don't really need it. A false alarm may make people ignore a real emergency.
9. Don't swim during thunderstorms. There's always a chance you could get struck by lightning.
10. Don't bring glass poolside. If it breaks, people with bare feet might get badly cut.



## The Hare and the Tortoise

One day the Hare was boasting, as usual, of his amazing speed. “No one can run faster than I,” he bragged to the other animals. “I’m swifter than the wind. I challenge anyone here to run a race with me.”

None of the animals seemed ready to accept the challenge. “What?” said the Hare. “Will no one dare to race with me?”

“I will,” said a quiet voice. It was the Tortoise.

“You!” the Hare exclaimed. “Surely you must be joking. How can *you* hope to win?”

“We shall see,” said the Tortoise calmly. “Let us race.”

It was agreed that they would race through the woods and back. The signal was given, and the Hare hopped out of sight at once, while the Tortoise plodded slowly along.

Soon the Hare was so far ahead of the Tortoise that he stopped to rest on the soft grass. “To think that a Tortoise would want to race with me!” thought the Hare, laughing to himself. “Why I even have time for a nap.” And he curled up on the soft grass and went to sleep.

Meanwhile the Tortoise plodded steadily on—and on and on. After a while he passed the Hare, who was still asleep. Just as the Tortoise came to the finish line, the Hare made a great leap forward, but it was too late. The Tortoise had won the race.

As the Hare crept away, shamefaced, he heard the animals exclaim, “You won! You won! How did you ever beat the Hare?”

Modestly, the Tortoise told them, “*Slow and steady wins the race.*”  
Reprinted from *Aesop’s Fables*, retold by Ann McGovern.





1. Why did the author write the fable, "The Hare and the Tortoise"?
- (A) to describe a hare
  - (B) to describe a tortoise
  - (C) to persuade people to run races
  - (D) to show it is important to keep trying

2. Read this sentence from the story.

**Meanwhile the Tortoise plodded steadily on—and on and on.**

What does the word **plodded** mean?

- (A) hopped
  - (B) passed
  - (C) raced swiftly
  - (D) walked heavily
3. Why does the Hare laugh at himself?
- (A) He thinks of a silly joke.
  - (B) He thinks Tortoise might win.
  - (C) He thinks Tortoise will never win.
  - (D) He thinks of the races he has won.



4. How is the Tortoise DIFFERENT from the Hare?

- (A) The Tortoise is quiet and modest.
- (B) The Tortoise is boastful and loud.
- (C) The Tortoise is tired and ashamed.
- (D) The Tortoise is challenging and fast.

5. What would be another good title for this fable?

- (E) "Braggers Are Losers"
- (F) "Swifter than the Wind"
- (G) "Do I Have Time for a Nap?"
- (H) "Slow and Steady Wins the Race"



**Essential Question**

What happens that causes the Hare to lose the race? Use details and examples from the fable to support your answer.

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