

The Pufferfish and The Crab

Adaption of Aesop's Fable "The Hare and The Tortoise"

'Look at me!' said the Pufferfish to the other fish. 'Just look how fast I can swim.'

The Pufferfish swam across the coral reef as fast as he could. All the fish agreed that yes, the Pufferfish was very fast. The Pufferfish swam back.

'See,' he shouted. 'I'm not even blowing bubbles.'

'Yeah, that was fast,' said a Jellyfish.

'So who wants a race?' said the Pufferfish. 'Anybody think they could beat me?'

None of the fish spoke.

'See,' said the Pufferfish. 'You're all too scared to even try.'

'I'll have a go,' said the Crab.

The Pufferfish laughed. 'You? The slowest creature in the whole ocean? I'm not wasting my time racing a Crab.'

'What's the matter?' said the Crab. 'Scared I might beat you?'

Some of the fish laughed at that, so the Pufferfish said, 'Alright then, Crab. Let's have a race...right now...then we'll see who's laughing.'

'Not today,' said the Crab. 'We'll race in the morning. Got to have a bit of a rest first.'

The Pufferfish and The Crab

Next morning, crowds of fish came to watch the watch the race. The Crab slowly made her way to the starting line and then suddenly...

...the Pufferfish arrived at top speed!

'The race starts here.' said the Clownfish pointing to a line on the sea-floor. 'And ends at that Seaweed mound on the other side of the coral reef. First one to touch the seaweed is the winner.'

'Right, let's get on with it,' said the Pufferfish. 'Ready Crab? Ready to see some real speed?'

'I'm ready,' said the Crab.

'Ready, steady... go!' said the Clownfish and the race began.

The Pufferfish roared off then stopped and looked back. The Crab was still crossing the starting line. The Pufferfish ran back to the Crab.

'Didn't you hear him say go? You can start, you know.'

'I have started,' said the Crab.

'Look,' said the Pufferfish. 'You're going so slowly I'm going to have a rest. Might even have a little sleep. I'll finish the race when I wake up and still beat you by miles.'

The Pufferfish lay down behind a piece of coral and fell asleep. The Crab kept going. Slowly, steadily she moved across the reef and by evening time she was getting close to the finishing line. Still the Pufferfish slept on and now the other fish started to get excited.

The Pufferfish and The Crab

'You know what? I think she might win,' said a Flatfish.

'I can't believe it,' said the Octopus. 'The Crab might actually win.'

The animals started to get more excited and as the Crab got close to the finishing line, they started to cheer.

'Come on Crab,' they shouted. 'Nearly there. Keep going, old friend. Keep going!'

But the noise of the cheering crowd woke up the Pufferfish. He looked across the reef and saw the Crab about to reach the finishing line and, in a flash, he was swimming.

The Crab heard the Pufferfish whooshing up behind her but she kept going... and going... and suddenly, he was there. Just in time, the Crab touched the seaweed. She'd done it! The Crab had beaten the Pufferfish fair and square.

'There you go,' said the Crab. 'Slow and steady's sometimes better than fast and flashy.'

'Not fair,' said the Pufferfish. 'I was asleep. We have to swim the race again. It's not fair.'

But no-one was listening to the Pufferfish.