

An illustration from Arthur Rackham's 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. It depicts a scene from the fable where the hare is being carried on a tray by a waiter. The hare is dressed in a grey suit and a white scarf, looking surprised. The tortoise is also dressed in a white coat and a white scarf, looking on. Other animals, including a fox and a dog, are visible in the background, some holding trays with food. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a brick wall and a doorway.

Characteristics OF A FABLE

Fables are fiction

Fables are short and have no more than 2-3 characters

Characters are often animals who are in conflict with one another

Fables have just one main event

The theme is stated at the end of the story as a moral or lesson

Arthur Rackham, "The Hare and the Tortoise",
from Aesop's Fables.
Published by Ballantyne & Co., London, 1912.