

The Hare and The Hedgehog



A Children's Play

THE HARE AND THE HEDGEHOG

A Play

by
Pat Scruggs
www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com © 2015
All rights reserved.

THE HARE AND THE HEDGEHOG

A Play

The Cast: (3)

Hedgehog

Hedgehog's Wife

Hare

Production Notes: Scenery, stage props and costumes might be as elaborate or basic as you choose. If you have a formal stage, formal props and costumes available, that's great. If not, it can be just as much fun to hang a decorated sheet on a clothesline. Cardboard props and decorations painted by the kids are always a good choice. Use your imaginations. That's what acting in a play is all about. It would be beneficial, however, to make use of costumes for the actors. The simplest would be masks for Hedgehog, his wife and the Hare. See notes below on ideas for the furrows.

Here's one fun idea to get your creative muscles working: If you have available a child's playhouse, wouldn't that make a wonderful cottage for the hedgehog family? Utilizing the sheet and clothesline idea while positioning the playhouse behind the sheet, and seating the audience in front, will give the effect of opening the curtain to the hedgehog's world.

We always like to include an educational tidbit and for those children who have never heard of a furrow, here it is: A Furrow is a long trench or ditch made in the ground by a plow for planting seeds.

In the play, the Hedgehogs used their furrow to appear as if they ran along inside of it, as did the Hare, in his. They quite succeeded in fooling the Hare. In order to "fool" the audience it will be necessary to make your furrows deep enough to hide the bodies of the actors, while they travel or, in the case of the hedgehogs "appear to run."

A furrow might be constructed by using several cardboard boxes with the ends cut out and sides taped together, so the racers can travel along inside the boxes, while still being hidden from sight of the audience. If cardboard boxes are not readily available, anything that could be used to hide the racers from view of the audience while racing will work. I'm certain when imaginations are engaged, your little actors will come up with the most appropriate of props. Enjoy!

Scene I.— The Farmer's cabbage patch - springtime.

(The hedgehog is standing by his door looking at the cabbage field which he thinks is his own.)

HEDGEHOG. Wife, have you dressed the children yet?

WIFE. Just through, my dear.

HEDGEHOG. Well, come out here and let us look at our cabbage patch.

(Wife comes out.)

HEDGEHOG. Fine crop, isn't it? We should be happy.

WIFE. The cabbage is fine enough, but I can't see why we should be so happy.

HEDGEHOG. Why, my dear, there are tears in your voice. What is the matter?

WIFE. I suppose I ought not to mind it, but those dreadful hares nearly worry the life out of me.

HEDGEHOG. What are they doing now?

WIFE. Doing? What are they not doing? Why, yesterday I brought my pretty babies out here to get some cabbage leaves. We were eating as well-behaved hedgehogs always eat, and those horrid hares almost made us cry.

HEDGEHOG. What did they do?

WIFE. They came to our cabbage patch and they giggled and said, "Oh, see the little duck-legged things! Aren't they funny?" Then one jumped over a cabbage just to hurt our feelings.

HEDGEHOG. Well, they are mean, I know, but we won't notice them. I'll get even with them one of these days. Ah, there comes one of them now.

WIFE. Yes, and he laughed at me yesterday. He said, "Good-morning, Madam Shortlegs." I won't speak to him. I'll hide till he goes by.

(Wife hides behind a cabbage.) (enter Hare.)

HEDGEHOG. Good morning, sir.

HARE. Are you speaking to me?

HEDGEHOG. Certainly; do you see anyone else around?

HARE. How dare you speak to me?

HEDGEHOG. Oh, just to be neighborly.

HARE. I shall ask you not to speak to me hereafter. I think myself too good to pay attention to hedgehogs.

HEDGEHOG. Now, that is strange.

HARE. What is strange?

HEDGEHOG. Why, I have just said to my wife that we should pay no attention to you .

HARE. Ha, pay me no mind! Indeed, you silly, short-legged, duck-legged thing!

HEDGEHOG. Well, my legs are quite as good as yours, sir.

HARE. As good as mine! Who ever heard of such a thing? Why, you can do little more than crawl.

HEDGEHOG. That may be as you say, but I'll run a race with you any day.

HARE. Ha, ha, ha! Ho, ho, ho! A race with a hedgehog! Well, well, well!

HEDGEHOG. Are you afraid to run with me?

HARE. Of course not. It will be no race at all, but I'll run just to show you how silly you are.

HEDGEHOG. Good! You run in that furrow; I will run in this. We shall see who gets to the fence first. Let's start from the far end of the furrow.

HARE. I will run to the brook and back while you are getting there. Go ahead.

HEDGEHOG. I wouldn't stay too long if I were you.

HARE. Oh, I'll be back before you reach the end of the furrow.

(The hare runs off to exit stage.)

CURTAIN

Scene II:

HEDGEHOG. Wife, wife, did you hear what I said to the hare?

WIFE. Did I hear? I should say I did. What are you thinking of? Have you lost your senses?

HEDGEHOG. You shouldn't speak that way to me. Come here and let me whisper something to you.

(He whispers and then walks to far end of the furrow. His wife laughs.)

WIFE. Ha, ha! I see. I see. Nothing wrong with your brains.

"Short legs, long wit, Long legs, not a bit," as my grandmother used to say. The hare will find that out today.

(She stoops down in the near end of the furrow. The hare returns and takes his place.)

HARE. Well, are you ready?

HEDGEHOG. Of course I am,—ready and waiting.

HARE. One for the money, Two for the show, Three to make ready, And here we go!

(The hare runs as swiftly as the wind. The hedgehog starts with him, but stops and stoops low in the furrow. When the hare reaches the other end, the hedgehog's wife puts up her head.)

WIFE. Well, here I am.

HARE. What does this mean?

WIFE. It means what it means. I beat you here!

HARE. We'll try again. Are you ready?

WIFE. Of course I am.

HARE. One for the money, Two for the show, Three to make ready, And here we go!

(The hare runs swiftly back again. Wife starts, but stops and stoops low. The hare reaches the other end. The hedgehog puts up his head.)

HEDGEHOG. Here I am.

HARE. I can't understand this.

HEDGEHOG. Why? It is very clear to me.

HARE. Well, we'll try again. Are you ready?

HEDGEHOG. I'm always ready.

HARE. One for the money, Two for the show, Three to make ready, And here we go!

(Again the wife puts up her head and the hare is bewildered.)

WIFE. You see I am here.

HARE. I just can't believe it.

WIFE. A perfectly simple thing.

HARE. We'll try once more. You can't beat me another time.

WIFE. Don't boast. You had better save your breath for the race; you will need it.

HARE. One for the money, Two for the show, Three to make ready, And here we go!

(When the hare reaches the other end of the field, the hedgehog puts up his head.)

HARE. This is very strange.

HEDGEHOG. Shall we run again? You seem a little tired, but I am perfectly fresh.

HARE. *(panting)*: No, no! The race is yours.

HEDGEHOG. Will you call my wife and children names anymore?

HARE. No, no! I'll never do that again.

HEDGEHOG. Very well. And if you wish a race at any time, friend hare, just call by for me.

HARE. *(walking off shaking his head)*: It's very strange. I hope none of the other hares will hear of this race.

WIFE. *(as she meets the hedgehog)*: I thought I should hurt myself laughing. As my grandmother used to say: "Short legs, long wit, Long legs, not a bit."

CURTAIN

THE END

Adapted from Grimm's Fairy Tales.

We hope you've enjoyed your play

It's always a good day for a play!

Fun Facts:

Chances are you already know what a hare looks like. Hare is another name for rabbit.

Quite possibly, though, you've never seen a hedgehog. Although they look fuzzy and cuddly, they are not. What appears to be a furry, fuzzy coat is actually prickly, sharp quills.

Hedgehogs are primarily nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and hunt and forage for food at night. When threatened, they will roll up into a neat little ball, pointing their sharp quills outward. Predators who try to grasp onto that fuzzy, furry looking ball soon get the idea that the hedgehog does not want to play.



Hare



Hedgehog

Did you enjoy your play? We hope you had lots of fun and laughter.

Please check out the other playscripts we offer for more future fun to come.

<http://www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com/play-scripts.html>