

The Tortoise and the Eagle

The Tortoise and the Eagle rarely saw each other. Eagle lived up in a tree. Tortoise lived on the ground. Eagle heard how kind Tortoise was, so one day he went to visit him.

Tortoise was very nice to Eagle. He invited Eagle into his home and fed him a big meal. Eagle stuffed himself with the good food.

The meal was so good that Eagle came back many times to eat with Tortoise. Each time he came, he ate and ate and ate. And every time he flew off he would laugh to himself, "Ha ha! I have eaten Tortoise's food, but he can never reach my tree to eat my food!" Eagle was so greedy that soon the other animals began to talk about him.

One day Frog went to Tortoise to give him some advice.

"Tortoise," said Frog, "You are being kind, but Eagle is not being nice. Every time he leaves your home he laughs to himself and says, "Ha ha! I have eaten Tortoise's food, but he can never reach my tree to eat my food!" He is telling all

the animals that you are not very smart. Then Frog told him what to do.

The next time Eagle came to visit, Tortoise said, "Please, Eagle let me give you a pumpkin full of food to take home to your family." Eagle was happy to accept the gift. He waited for Tortoise to bring it to him.

In the kitchen, where Eagle couldn't see, Tortoise climbed into the pumpkin and his wife put food on top of him. Then she gave the pumpkin to Eagle.

Eagle took the pumpkin home and dumped the food out on his floor. Tortoise rolled out of the pumpkin. He said, "Hello, Eagle. I thought it would be nice to visit you. I want to eat a meal with your family."

Eagle was angry and said, "You will be the only meal here, Tortoise!" But as he tried to peck at Tortoise, he hurt his own beak on Tortoise's hard shell.

"I see what kind of friend you are, Eagle. You tried to eat me," said Tortoise. "I think it would be best for you to take me home now."

Eagle was so angry he picked up Tortoise in his claws and flew off into the sky. Tortoise grabbed Eagle's leg with

his teeth in a strong grip and wouldn't let go. Eagle tried to fling him off but couldn't. Eagle begged and begged, "Oh please, Tortoise! Let go of my leg!"

Tortoise said, "I will let go when you take me home."

Eagle tried and tried to throw Tortoise off of his leg, but in the end, he had to take him home. Tortoise calmly walked to his door. Then he turned to Eagle and sadly said, "I was kind to you at my home. But you were not kind to me. Don't come back here again." Tortoise went inside, leaving Eagle to think about his selfishness.