# The Talkative Tortoise

**Ages** 5 to 8 **Read aloud** about 3 min Also called **The Tortoise and the Geese**



## THE STORY IN BRIEF

Kambu is a cheerful, chatty tortoise whose lake is drying up, so his goose friends Arun and Varun offer to carry him on a stick, as long as he keeps his mouth closed. Over a village the people tease him, and when Kambu opens his mouth to answer, he drops into a farmer's cart of cotton. On a second flight the next morning he stays silent, and all three reach the new lake safely.

> **Moral:** Wisdom is not only knowing what to say; it is knowing when silence protects what matters most.

## TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why did Kambu need to leave his lake?
2. What was the one rule for the flight?
3. What did the people below say, and how did Kambu feel?
4. What did Kambu do differently on the second flight?
5. Is there something you do when you want to answer quickly but should wait?

*The questions run from what happened to why, and then to what you would do. Choose the ones that suit your group.*

## TRY THIS

Play Silent Tortoise. Everyone is Kambu on the stick: stay quiet while the teacher asks easy questions, and speak only after the signal, such as a raised hand. Then talk about how it felt to wait.

**Read the story**
fablestoriesworld.com/stories/the-talkative-tortoise

**Print the coloring pages**
fablestoriesworld.com/coloring-pages

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