The hedgehog and the hare (adapted by Rachel Salvi)

This is Mr. Hedgehog. And this is Mrs. Hedgehog. Mr. Egel and Mrs. Hedgehog look completely the same, just look! And Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog are very smart! I'll tell you why!

One day when the sun came up, Mr. Hedgehog was out in the garden looking for snails. His wife was working in the kitchen. Mister Hedgehog looked at the sky, at the sun and he thought: Wow, what a beautiful day it is today! I will go for a walk later!  
He took the snails and went home. He opened the door and entered.  
"Good morning, Mrs. Hedgehog," he said. "Here you have some snails!"  
“Good morning, Mr. Hedgehog. Thank you for the snails! ”Said Mrs. Hedgehog.  
"The weather is beautiful today. I'm going for a walk, ”said Mr. Hedgehog.  
"Go ahead," said Mrs. Hedgehog. “Then I’ll prepare our breakfast”.

And she climbed on the stove and started cooking. Mister Hedgehog turned and went outside. He walked down the path to a large field. Mister Hedgehog was happy. It was nice and warm. The birds were chirping and the bees were flying happily around him.   
The field was very large. It was on a mountain and a long hedge surrounded the field. But that was for Mr. Hedgehog no problem. He crawled under the hedge to the field. There he saw a hare. A hare is bigger than a hedgehog. And a hare is bigger than a rabbit. A rabbit is smaller than a hare. A hare has longer ears than a rabbit. The rabbit's ears are shorter. And the hare's legs are longer and stronger.

The hare was very proud. He looked at the hedgehog and said, "Mister Hedgehog! What are you doing here in MY field?"  
The hedgehog said, "Good morning, Mr. Haas! How are you? I'm just walking on your field. The weather is so beautiful! It is nice and warm and the birds are chirping so beautifully. And the bees are flying so happily around.  
'WALK?' did the hare yell? You walking? You cannot walk at all. Your legs are too sjhort! You are so slow!  
"Oh, but I can walk, Mr. Hare," said Mr. Hedgehog. "I can walk and I can run very fast."  
"Mr. Hedgehog!," said the hare. "Don't make me laugh! Hahaha, with such short legs !!! Hahaha, you can't run!"

But Mr. Hedgehog said, "I CAN walk. You know what? We are going to race. And I will win! "  
Mr. Hare said, "It is not possible. You can't win! I run much faster than you! You run so much slower than I do! ”  
"Oh no!" Said Mr. Hedgehog. "I will win. You know what? I'm going home now to eat and tonight around 6 o'clock we'll be back here. And then we will be racing. You' ll see who will win. ”  
"Okay," said Mr. Hare. “Go home to eat. And tonight around 6 o'clock we'll come back here. And then we race. Bye! See you tonight, Mr. Hedgehog! Hahaha! ”.  
Mr. Hedgehog crawled back under the hedge. Mr. Hare ran away across the field.

Mr. Hedgehog walked back home along the path. He opened the door and entered. “Hello, Mrs. Hedgehog. I am back home, ”he said.  
"Hello, Mr. Hedgehog," said his wife. "Sit down, breakfast is ready!"  
Mr. Hedgehog said, “Hmm, it smells good. I am hungry and I need energy. And you too! Because tonight at 6 o'clock the two of us will race against Mr. Hare ”.  
"What?! Are you crazy ?! ”said Mrs. Hedgehog. "We can't race against Mr. Hare. We run so much slower than Mister Hare! ”  
"That's true," said Mr. Hedgehog. “Mister Hare runs very fast. But we are smart! We are much smarter than Mister Hare. Just wait, you will see! I have an idea!"  
"Okay," said Mrs. Hedgehog. "Come and eat now, or your food will get cold!"

At about 5:00 o’clock in the afternoon, when the sun started to go down, Mr. and Mrs. Hedgehog went out. They walked down the path to the large field. They crawled under the hedge to the field. They stopped at the top of the field en they looked across the field.  
"Look," said Mr. Hedgehog. "Look at the field. The farmer has ploughed the field. And now there are furrows in the field. Do you see that? I have an idea! We can hide in the furrows! Mrs. Hedgehog, you go all the way to the bottom of the field and hide there. Don't let Mr. Hare see you. And when Mister Hare is almost down, you jump out of the furrow and you say, "Hello, here I am!".  
"Oh, what a great idea!" Mrs. Hedgehog said. And so she walked all the way down the field and hid in one of the furrows. You could only see a little bit of her nose!

Mr. Hedgehog waited for Mr. Hare to come. At 6 o'clock the hare ran back up the field.  
"Hello, Mr. Hedgehog, are you ready for the race?", asked Mr. Hare.  
"I am ready", said Mr. Hedgehog.   
"Okay", shouted Mr. Hare. "Let’s go! 1, 2, 3, go!"  
And he was gone! He ran down as fast as he could. Mr. Hedgehog took 3 small steps forward and hid between the furrows. You could only see a little bit of his nose.  
When the hare nearly reached the other side, Mrs. Hedgehog jumped up and called out, "Hello, Mr. Hare. Here I am! I have won!"

"What ?!" shouted the hare. "That is not possible! How can you run so fast? Your legs are so short! We are going to race again. Up this time! 1, 2, 3, go! ”  
Mister Hare ran up as fast as he could and Mrs. Hedgehog took 3 small steps forward and then hid back between the furrows. You could only a little bit of her nose. And when Mr. Hare was almost at the top of the field, Mr. Hedgehog jumped out of the furrows.  
“Hello, Mr. Hare!", he said. "Here I am again! I have won!”

"What ?!" shouted the hare. "That is not possible! How can you run so fast! We are going to race once again. Down this time! 1, 2, 3, go! ”. And he ran down as fast as he could.  
Mr. Hedgehog took 3 small steps forward and then hid between the furrows. You could only see a little bit of his nose. And when Mr. Hare was almost down the field, Mrs. Hedgehog jumped out of the furrows. She said, "Hello, Mr. Hare! Here I am! I have won!"  
The hare shouted, "But that is not possible! How can you run so fast. We are going to race again ”.  
And he run again. And again. And again? And again,… And after 74 times the hare stopped. He sat down and said, “I am stopping. I am exhausted! I'm so tired. You are the winner. You can run the fastest.”

He stood up and walked home very slowly.  
Mrs. Hedgehog walked upstairs to Mr. Hedgehog.  
"We won!" She laughed.  
"You see!" Said Mr. Hedgehog. We are not fast, but we are smart.  
We are much smarter than Mister Hare. "

And they crawled together under the hedge and walked home.  
And when they finally got home, the sun was also completely down.