

## **Fable Series**

### **The Greyhound Dog and the Rabbit**

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<http://eltforward.com/index.html>

When Max, the Greyhound dog, retired from racing six months ago, he was adopted by a family of five – mom, dad, their two children, and Ponytail, the family dog. They lived in a leafy, quiet suburb with a huge backyard and plenty of plants and small creatures.

At first, Ponytail didn't quite know what to do with her new companion, so she kept her distance. The two kids, however, welcomed Max, and were soon having a grand time together.

Max rolled around on the floor with the kids, chased balls in the backyard, ran wildly after birds and squirrels, and licked the faces of almost everyone and anyone who came to hug him.

In no time, Ponytail joined, roaring with laughter.

One day, when the family was out, Ponytail asked Max, "How come you stopped racing? Were you too old and weak?"

"Oh no, I was young and fit, and still am good enough to race," replied Max.

Ponytail was curious, "Maybe you weren't winning races anymore?"

"Nah, quite the contrary," Max explained. "I had been the Champion for four years in a row when I retired. The best of the best, they would say, winning almost every race I entered," answered Max.

"Well, perhaps you weren't making enough money for your master?", Ponytail wondered aloud.

“No way, I was bringing in not just money, but also trophies for my master, who was the talk of the town, rubbing shoulders with celebrities and VIPs. I was driven to win, to get the rabbit\* as proof that I was the greatest racing dog of all,” Max continued.

“Oh, why did you stop then?” Ponytail was even more puzzled.

“Because one day I ran so fast that I was able to grab the rabbit and chew through it, only to discover the rabbit I had been chasing all my life *wasn't real*. A fake. I stopped racing,” Max was deep in thought.

\*In greyhound racing, a mechanical rabbit is dangled in front of the dog to lure it to run.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Moral of the story**

Alas, not many realise what they have been chasing isn't real, and even if they wake up, they may simply substitute one fake for another, thus another round of aimless chase.

### **Think and share time**

1. What would have happened to Max if no family had adopted him?
2. If you were Ponytail, how would you feel about this newcomer?
3. Why did Max stop racing?
4. Why would it matter if the rabbit was real or fake?
5. Draw a picture of a dog having a grand time. What's your idea of a “grand” time?
6. Would you like to keep a pet? How would you care for him or her?
7. Does it matter to *you* if something is real or fake?
8. What have *you* been “chasing” so far?