



The Speedy Sloth

Key Word Sign – Sign links

Please read the accompanying document “The Speedy Sloth - Key Word Sign Information Sheet” for more information about Key Word Sign and how the signs used in the video book reading have been selected, and at times modified.

Links to the signs selected are embedded in the key words of the text. Auslan Signbank is the source of nearly all these signs, however there is no Auslan sign for some words (“sloth” and armadillo”), and an ASL sign has been used. Some words have been represented by a **natural gesture** and **finger spelling** has been used for the first letter of a name. Other signs have been **modified** to better reflect the meaning of the text. These words have been colour-coded.

The Speedy Sloth

Written by Rebecca Young
and illustrated by Hamish McKenzie

It was finally time
for the event of the year,
Spike couldn't believe it –
THE GREAT RACE was here!

The other sloths said
it couldn't be done . . .
but Spike didn't care,
she was ready to run!

See, Spike likes to think
that hard work pays,
so she'd been in the gym
for the last seven days.

She checked her laces
and prepared to soar,
her mum wished her luck
as she jogged out the door.

'Be back for dinner –
you'd better be ready!
I'm cooking your favourite',
she called out,
'SPAGHETTI!

The others looked fit,
the others looked quicker,
they looked at the sloth
and tried not to snicker.

The racers lined up . . .

then the starting horn BLEW!

Spike took off fast –

her furry feet flew!

She bolted like lightening,

she practically soared!

There was no sloth who'd ever
run faster before.

She sprinted so fast,

she was all but a blur

of speed and technique

and sweaty SLOTH fur.

SNAIL overtook her –

but that guy was a beast!

As fast as a racecar,

or pushbike, at least!

In fact, Spike was trailing
a LORIS, a GRUB,
a HARE and a TORTOISE,
a mischievous CUB . . .
A moonwalking MEERKAT,
a CHIMP who loves flipping,
a burrowing MOLE,
a GIRAFFE prone to tripping . . .

An old ARMADILLO,
a daydreaming COUGAR
and an ELEPHANT
riding a broken-down scooter!

All that remained was
PETER THE CHEETAH . . .
who bolted ahead, shouting
'HAHA! I BEAT YA!'

Spike was exhausted,
she had to admit.
But she'd come so far,
there was NO WAY she'd quit.

It was there, she could see it –
a fallen-down sign!
She grinned and leapt over . . .

. . . THE FINISHING LINE!
The other sloths gasped,
they reeled back, unsteady.
'Look there, it's Spike!'
'She's back already?'

Yes, Spike was slow,
but for a sloth she was fast.

And yes, it is true
that this sloth came last.

But Spike didn't care,
she was a WINNER!

And she'd made it back home
in time for her dinner!