Do you ever wish that you could get your chores done without actually having to do them? In this myth from Africa, the clever Hare does exactly that! Stories about clever animal tricksters are very popular in Africa.

The Clever Hare

Hare needed to plow his field so that he could plant a crop. But plowing was a lot of work. Hare did not want to do that much work. Hare was clever, so he thought up a way to solve his problem. He dragged a long piece of rope across his field, and then hid in the bushes on the other side. Soon a big African elephant came stomping by. Hare jumped out to greet the elephant. “I bet I can beat you in a game of tug-of-war,” Hare said. The huge elephant laughed. He knew that he could easily beat the small Hare. The elephant picked up one end of the rope in his trunk. Hare picked up the other end and hurried back into the bushes, out the other side, and back across his field. There, he hid in a row of bushes on the other side.

Before long, a great, mud-covered hippopotamus came thudding by. Hare jumped out into his path. “I bet I can beat you in a game of tug-of-war,” Hare said. The hippopotamus knew that he was stronger than Hare, so he took the bet. He picked up the end of the rope in his teeth. Hare shot back into the bushes. There, hidden from both of the massive animals, he tugged on the rope. When the elephant and the hippo felt the rope moving, they both started pulling. The strong animals dragged the rope back and forth, back and forth until the sun set, and every time the rope moved, it plowed another row in Hare’s field.
Answer the questions below. Use passages from the story to support your answers.

1. Why doesn’t Hare want to plow his own field?

2. Who plows Hare’s field?

3. What personal quality does Hare use to get his field plowed?

4. Is what Hare does an honest thing or not? Why or why not?