

Where's my clover?

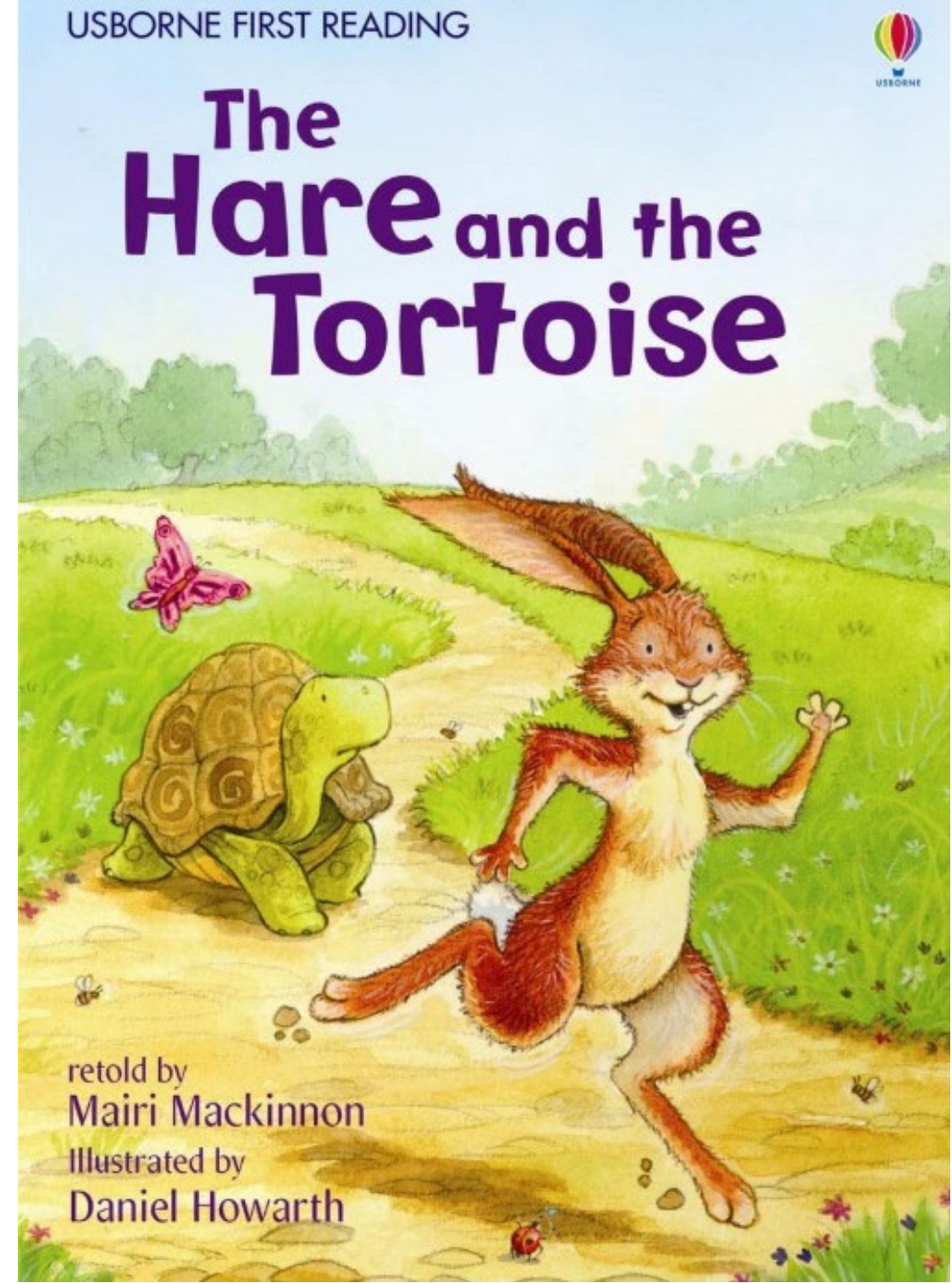
Legumes in
dairy systems

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Basic Principles

- High productivity grasses and legumes are short-lived
- Established forage mixtures are resistant to change
- Manage your expectations



Dairy forage systems

- Annual (wholecrop – cereal + peas)
- Temporary (1 – 2 years)
- Regular re-seeding (3 – 5 years)
- Permanent grass



2-year leys

- Italian ryegrass
- Mix with vetch, red clover or crimson clover
- Sitona Weevil or slugs can knock out the clover component



3 to 4-year leys

- Hybrid and perennial ryegrasses
- Rapid establishment and very fast growth
- Establish with red clover and large-leaved white clovers





Permanent grass

- The older the grass, the greater the challenge in introducing new species
- Existing grass can be strip-tilled or sprayed off
- New seeds may establish, but not persist



Challenges



Clover dominance

Wild vs. native



Diversity vs. yield

