THETORTOISE AND THE HARE

SOLUTION:

The story contains several references towards an overall theme for this puzzle: The Amazing Race (astonishing around-the-world competition, legs, yield, "digressions and obstacles in his path" = detours and roadblocks, and "amaze" in the moral). Also, the typeface used on the images is the same as in the show logo.

Each of the specific locations shown was a pitstop in one episode of The Amazing Race, clued either by city or specific location. So:

Santiago (Cerro Santa Lucia) MRSONGWRITER --> SONDHEIMTUNE --> Berlin (Brandenburg Gate) **POLOFANSHERE** Barcelona (Palau Nacional de Montjuic) **FAWKESFORONE** Venice (Venice Lagoon) Phoenix (Papago Park) DEFENSEANNIE Preservation Hall (New Orleans) WHITEFANGMAN REDHEADPIECE London (Potters Field Park) **NEWSWANSTONE** Fez(Bori Nord) LEASPINKENED Neuschwanstein (Füssen) RACYSMALLBAY --> Flushing Meadows (New York City) QUEENRETREAT Blue Lagoon (Grindavik) Victoria Harbour (Hong Kong) MILOPALSTEVE --> SITCOMCAROLB --> Dallas (Trammell Crow Park) Florence (Boboli Gardens) REGALRIDDLER --> ERNESTOLDMAN --> The Sphinx (Giza)

Note that each clue is exactly 12 letters long. There have been, to date, 12 seasons of Amazing Race (and the Tortoise is the more "seasoned" racer). For each location, take the number of the season in which it appeared and use that letter of the clue attached to that image. Thus, Santiago (season 7) = W, Berlin (season 6) = E, etc. This spells the final answer, WEEKEND WARRIORS (who enjoy athletic activity as their schedules permit).