

A Talk-Along Story

COUNT THE POSSUMS

By Dick Punnett
Illustrated by Tom Dunnington



Children participate by guessing rhyming answers

Talk-Along -
**COUNT
THE
POSSUMS**



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*To my wife YVONNE
the best "talk-along" partner a man ever had!*

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(A Talk-along book)

Summary: By supplying the missing word that rhymes with the preceding line, the reader helps Mama Possum count her babies as she finds them in the aftermath of a hurricane.

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*I want you to know before we start,
Our story has a speaking part.
When you see the dots . . .
 try guessing the word.
That is the time for YOU to be heard.*



Here comes a possum down the trail
With all her babies on her tail.
They hang on tight, and away they go,
Ten little possums, all in a row.



Look at those clouds full of wind and rain.
It looks like a howling hurricane!



Oh! Now it hits and shatters the air!
And babies are scattered everywhere!



"They're lost!" Mama cries, all out of breath.
"If I don't find them soon, they'll starve to death!"
But it's almost certain that Mama will fail
To get all those babies back on her tail.
TEN, after all, is a large amount,
And the problem is - **Mama can't count!**



Isn't that sad? What shall we do?
Someone must count; so how about YOU?
When I say "number," count loud and clear,
And then we'll know that Mama can hear.