

A Talk-Along Story

COUNT THE POSSUMS

By Dick Punnett
Illustrated by Tom Dunnington



Children participate by guessing rhyming answers

Talk-Along -
**COUNT
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POSSUMS**

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Talk-along - count the possums.

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

*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.



Look at her tail! Well, what do you know?
A little possum who didn't let go.
Please speak right up. Our search has begun.
Tell our Mama she's found number . . .

one 1





Mama's so glad, she's off at a run,
And pretty soon she has more than one.
One on her tail, and one in the zoo,
Let's keep track; so count number . . .

two 2





Two on her tail, and one in a tree.
Tell our Mama she's found number . . .

three 3





Three on her tail, and one in a store.
Speak right up, and count number . . .

four 4





Four on her tail, and one taking a drive.
How many now? Just count number . . .

five 5





Five on her tail, and one playing tricks.
Mama found him; so count number . . .

six 6





Six on her tail, and one up in heaven.
Let's keep going. Please count number . . .

seven 7





Seven on her tail, and one used for bait.
Our Mama saves him; so add number . . .

eight 8

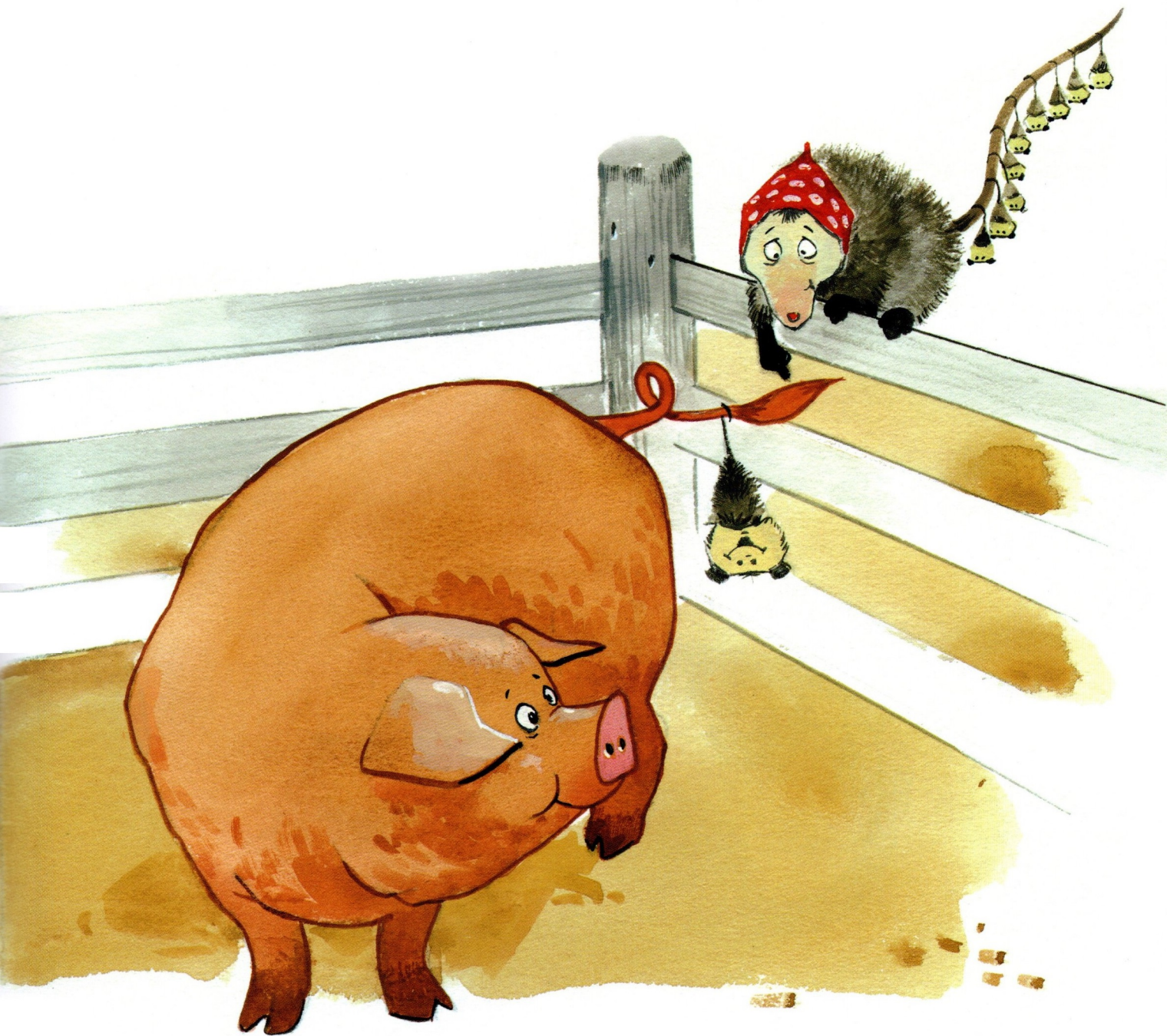




Eight on her tail, and one on a sign.
Please count out loud; he's number . . .

nine 9





Nine on her tail, and one in a pen.
And now, *at last*, here's number . . .

ten 10



Ten on her tail, and the search is done,
Because YOU counted every one!

About the Author:

Author/illustrator Dick Punnett grew up in Penfield, New York, and graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. For over 35 years he has delighted children of preschool to 7 years of age with books that have made learning fun. His series, TALK-ALONG, was published in 1982 and was the first interactive books introduced into the schools. They were best sellers because they taught basic concepts in a very original and clever way, and all in rhyme. He wrote another series called DOUBLE-RHYME, and over the years he has added to both series and also written single story books. Of the 15 books he has authored, seven of them are also illustrated by him. Because he spent a number of years as a writer-cartoonist for a Hollywood animation studio, his illustrations have a special appeal for children. They are perky, funny and expressive.

About the Artist:

Tom Dunnington hails from the Midwest, having lived in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. He attended the John Herron Institute of Art in Indianapolis, the American Academy of Art and the Chicago Art Institute. He has been an art instructor and illustrator for many years. In addition to illustrating books, Mr. Dunnington worked on a series of paintings of endangered birds (produced as limited edition prints). His current residence is Oak Park, Illinois, where he is active in church and community youth work.



BOOKS BY DICK PUNNETT

TALK-ALONG STORY BOOKS

Name Lizzy's Colors
Name Patty's Pets
Help Jumbo Escape
Help Dress Priscilla
Count the Possums



TALK-ALONG COLORING STORY BOOKS

Help Bruce Goose Fly South
Let's Haunt a House
Help Mister Turkel Change His Shape

DOUBLE-RHYME STORY BOOKS

Does Anyone Have a Spare Bear?
Our Brat Cat
Peek-A-Boo Sue

DOUBLE-RHYME COLORING STORY BOOK

Our Duck Jack Quack

COLORING STORY BOOKS

Freddy The Feet
My Magic Ball of Fur
Tim Buck-Too

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