

Possum Tale

Teacher Notes



Children's Picture Book

ISBN: 978-0-9804484-4-3 (pbk.)

Written & Illustrated by Lucienne Noontil

Illustrations: pen & ink, water colour

About the Author/Illustrator

Lucienne Noontil is an author, watercolour painter and mosaic artist, and has co-ordinated many art projects at the local primary school. Since completing a Diploma in Professional Writing and Editing she has been out in the community sharing her knowledge of writing and illustrating at libraries, kindergartens and primary schools.

Possum Tale started in a Writing for Children class and ended with a Publishing Assistance Award through Box Hill TAFE. It was based on a true story of what actually happened in her backyard when her nature-loving daughter put a wooden box up in a tree.

A lesson to be learned - in 2007, Lucienne could not draw or paint possums, but by 2009 her illustrations weren't too bad! It's amazing what perseverance can do.

Reflection/Responses

- How did you feel about Rusty leaving his home and family?
- What was the highlight of the story for you?
- Who put the box in the tree and why?
- What do you think of the title of the book?
- How do you feel about the blue backpack?
- Have you seen any wildlife living near you?
- Did you notice the story rhymed?

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Discussion Points

- What things and/or items make you feel happy and secure?
- Have you ever had to move house?
- What do you do when things don't turn out as planned?
- Do you think Rusty was brave or courageous?
- Is it important to live harmoniously with animals and birds?
- Do you know what 'nocturnal' means?
- The ringtail possum's nest is called a drey.
Do you know the names of any other animal or bird's homes?
- What do ringtail possums eat?
- Why do possums have a tail?

Write your own story about:

1. A time when you were challenged.
2. When you were alone or felt truly alone.
3. When you were away from your family for a while.

Art – be creative

1. Draw your own house.
2. Draw a happy possum. Do any colours help you feel happy?
3. Construct a nest from recycled products.

Useful Websites

<http://www.memfox.net/possum-magic.html>

www.australianfauna.com

www.wildlifemountain.com

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Possum Tale Word Search

D	S	B	X	X	H	W	M	D	T	R	F	Q	L	H
E	O	H	I	O	A	Q	E	N	S	L	A	G	O	E
H	N	B	E	R	B	M	Z	L	E	M	M	S	U	D
C	S	O	M	L	A	L	I	J	N	J	I	N	M	F
U	E	R	W	E	T	U	E	V	Q	G	L	B	R	W
O	X	S	R	N	A	E	S	D	B	K	Y	I	Y	K
R	P	D	D	W	H	C	R	A	E	S	G	S	C	B
C	S	T	I	R	R	E	D	P	W	H	C	O	H	T
E	O	Q	U	E	S	T	L	Z	T	O	H	U	M	V
I	N	Q	P	A	E	L	T	Z	R	S	L	J	B	U
X	M	I	G	S	U	I	T	E	A	F	P	L	C	T
N	W	U	F	X	S	T	P	S	E	H	G	F	O	C
T	N	S	I	H	A	T	E	U	H	Z	O	W	R	H
S	G	W	M	B	F	I	A	B	N	O	Q	M	O	M
U	A	L	S	Q	E	A	Z	U	N	H	Q	R	E	P

CROUCHED
HEART
OWN
SHOCK

DREAMED
HOLLOW
QUEST
SNUG

FAMILY
HOME
SAFE
STIRRED

FINE
LEAP
SEARCH
SUIT

FRIGHT
NEST
SHELTER
WARM