



POSSUM'S HARVEST MOON

AUTHOR: ANNE HUNTER

ILLUSTRATOR: ANNE HUNTER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Possum's Harvest Moon](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Possum wakes up one evening and sees the full harvest moon, he decides to throw one last party before the long winter. But everyone is too busy preparing for winter and it looks as if nobody will come to Possum's party. (amazon.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"I grew up following my mother through the fields and swamps of South Florida, in the company of birders, who knew the names of the trees, plants, insects and animals around us. I have always drawn. Though I wanted to illustrate field guides, by the time I graduated from I preferred to work drawing for newspapers and magazines, one of which was *Cricket*, for children. In 1996, I wrote and illustrated my first picture book, *Possum's Harvest Moon*. I found in picture books a great forum for encouraging young readers to look and listen and connect with the natural world around them. Now I live in Vermont with my husband and son. My husband has an organic vegetable farm. In the spring and summer, I help out around the farm. Fall and winter, I work in my studio doing a variety of illustrating, painting, woodcarving, and other design." (annehunterstudio.com)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

(see above)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What is on the cover of this story?
- I wonder what a Harvest Moon is.
- (reader: open the book so that both front and back covers show) What do we learn that we wouldn't have known without opening the book like this?
- There is only one person's name on the cover. What do you think that means?
- Let's review the order of the seasons: winter, spring, summer, fall (it's continuous – you can start anywhere)

POSSUM'S HARVEST MOON

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Moon
- Hibernation
- Seasons
- Forest animals

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1) The moon looks very big to Possum. I wonder if that's what's special about a harvest moon.
- (p. 1) The author writes that Possum awoke one autumn evening. Can anyone tell me what else we sometimes call autumn?
- (p. 1) Why is Possum hanging lanterns and berries on the grass?
- (p. 4) The crickets sang all summer. Now it's autumn. Is summer warmer or colder than autumn?
- (p. 8) What's the big yellow/white spot on the water by the frogs?
- (p. 14-15) What are all of the animals doing in this illustration?
- (p. 17) I wonder what a katydid is. And what are peepers? According to my bug books, a katydid is also called a bush cricket, and makes a chirping sound, just like a cricket. A peeper is a frog the size of a paper clip.
- (p. 18-19) What do you think scurried means? How about scampering?
- (p. 25) What do you think "a cool breeze ruffled" means?
- (P. 26) When will spring come?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- How does Possum feel when everyone says no to the invitation to his party?
- All the animals were doing something because a certain season was coming. What season was that?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- When you invite someone to play with you, do they sometimes say "no"? What do you do then?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 22) Everyone nibble and nod as you pretend to eat seeds and nuts.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Did you know that there is usually only one full moon every month? And that each one has its own name? The Harvest Moon is the full moon that happens in October. Can anyone tell me what "harvest" means?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Read students a list of all full moon names for the year. Have them draw a picture of a moon of their choosing. (Jan: Wolf; Feb: Snow; Mar: Worm; Apr: Pink; May: Flower; June: Strawberry; July: Buck; Aug: Sturgeon; Sept: Harvest; Oct: Hunters; Nov: Beaver; Dec: Cold)

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write the names of the seasons, one on each of four index cards. Put the cards in order and write one word underneath the season name about the weather during that season.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw the ocean and think of what animals might be watching the Harvest Moon. Draw pictures of these animals looking at the moon, similar to the illustration on pages 15 and 21.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.3, K.4, K.6,, K.7, K.10