Possum and the Summer Storm

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Possum’s family watches as their home washes away in a rainstorm, leaving them with nowhere to live. A friendly neighbor notices their situation and volunteers to help rebuild the Possum family home, prompting a community effort. Each forest animal helps build the kind of home they are used to, until eventually the Possum home is roomy enough for everyone to take shelter when the next storm hits.

Hunter’s large watercolor illustrations work wonderfully with a story about rain and wind, giving each image the feeling of movement. The illustrations are also realistic, allowing young readers to identify the animals and environment in a way that is recognizable to their experience. Using the real names of the animals also accomplishes this goal while teaching children some less common forest animals. Along with these animals comes information about the kind of home they live in as each animal builds what they would want, such as a bird in a nest or a bee in a hive. This book also teaches the importance of community bonds and unity through acts of service.