

## **Penelope The Mountain Pygmy Possum**

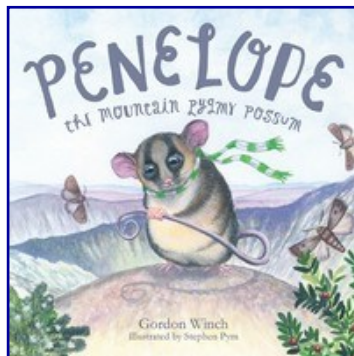
By Gordon Winch & Illustrated by Stephen Pym

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Much of Penelope's story is true. Mountain pygmy possums do hibernate, the male does go down the mountain to warmer regions in the winter, and a 'tunnel of love' has been built to help them return safely to their mates.



### **Themes:**

- Pygmy Possum
- Threatened Species
- Finding solutions

### **Discussion Points:**

Before reading:

- Have you ever heard of a Mountain Pygmy Possum?
- If so, what do you know about them?

After reading:

- Compare what you have learnt about them after reading the book and what you thought that you knew.
- Why do you think the females and the males hibernate in different places?
- What impact can building and development have on wildlife, especially threatened species?
- How important is it to try and come up with solutions that allow both progress to happen, while still allowing nature to thrive?
- Percy asked Rick the Ranger for help. Discuss what you know about Rangers and the role that they play in protecting the environment.
- Can you recall why Fred the Farmer was happy to help? What does this tell us about how important it is to keep the ecosystem working together?

### **Activities:**

- There is information at the back of the book about the Mountain Pygmy Possum. Conduct further research into them and the dangers that they face and what can be done to help save them.