

When the Storm Comes

by Linda Ashman

Note: The story is focused on a family in a somewhat rural seaside community not far from a large city.

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2-3 – copyright/dedication

4-5

**What do you do when the clouds roll in,
When the wind chimes clang and the weather vanes spin?**

6-7

We watch. *(birds, small mammals)*

We sniff.

We perk our ears, *(fox, coyote)*

And listen as the rumbling nears.

We count supplies. *(family)*

We check the news.

We find our comfort spot. *(anxious dog)*

We s n o o z e. *(calm dog or cat)*

8-9

**Where do you go when the sky turns gray—
When the grasses bend and the treetops sway?**

10-11

We gather here below the eaves.

(barn swallow)

We roost beneath some sturdy leaves.

(butterflies)

We put our busy work aside,

(honeybees)

And buzz back to the hive to hide.

We find a small, protected space—

(raccoons, small mammals)

A hollow log, a sheltered place.

12-13

What do you do when the buoys rock,

When the waves crash hard against the dock?

14-15

We ride a blast of stormy air.

(seabirds)

We find a cove—it's safer there.

(waterfowl)

We dodge the weather, if we can—

We swim down deep, away from land.

(sharks)

16-17

We close.

(neighbors preparing)

We cover,

Latch and tie.

We bring things in

To keep them dry.

18-19

Then lightning cracks,
And thunder ROARS—
It shakes the shutters, rattles doors.
The rain pours down.
The sky turns slate . . .

20-21

We hunker down to watch and wait.

(outside view, humans & animals?)

22-23

We play a game by candlelight,
Tell some stories,
Curl up tight.

We listen to the rainfall rush—

Then . . .

 Drizzle . . .

 Patter . . .

 Plip . . .

 Plop . . .

Hush.

24-25

What do you do when the storm has passed—

When the sun comes out and it's calm at last?

26-27

We leave our dens.

We scout.

We fly.

We shake, shake, shake until we're dry.

28-29

We clean things up.

We sweep and rake.

We haul debris.

We mix and bake.

30-31

We check on neighbors.

Make repairs.

Bring out tables.

Pull up chairs.

32

We settle in, enjoy the sun,

Happy that the storm is done.

Grateful for the change in weather—

And for friends who flock together.