

## The Hurricane Story

(loosely adapted from the Chippewa tale *Shingebiss* by Brooke Bailey/ SunBee Circle)

Once upon a time there lived a little squirrel in a cozy cozy squirrel nest at the top of a big pine tree. She loved the mockingbird in the tree, the rat who lived in the wall on the house just next to the tree, and the raccoons who lived in the tree next door. She loved to watch the sun shine through the green pine needles of her tree, and feel it swaying in the breeze to rock her to sleep at night.

But one day, the sun disappeared behind dark clouds. Her tree began to sway, sway, sway. The little squirrel was scared. "It's a hurricane," said the mockingbird.

It was true.

Far out in the middle of the sea, there was a tiny raindrop who was very, very angry. The tiny raindrop was so angry he began to spin and spin and spin. He had long, long hair, and his hair whipped all around him. With every spin he grew older and bigger, taller and stronger, stronger, stronger.

He grew the size of a house. He spun faster.

He grew the size of a mountain. He spun faster.

He grew to be almost the size of Texas. He spun faster. And then, he thought he'd go traveling.

And the whole time, he was spinning.

If you've ever spun and spun, you know that you can't walk very well when you are doing that. Well, neither could Hurricane Harvey. Spinning, spinning, not looking where he was going. He spun all over the land, bumping into things, knocking them down, flooding them. Now, he couldn't stop even if he wanted to.

Squirrel was hiding in her cozy nest in her tree. The mockingbird's nest blew away, so she huddled in with squirrel. The tree blew and blew but didn't fall down.

*I don't care I don't care  
windy hair, windy hair  
Spin, spin, spin!*

-screamed the Hurricane.

Squirrel sang out:

*"You can't spin forever, your spinning is done.  
The sun will come, the sun will come!"*

But Hurricane Harvey only laughed, because the sun was no where to be seen.

He blew the tree down.

Now squirrel and mockingbird didn't have a home. But the raccoons were passing by in a boat and they pulled their friends on board. They were safe.

*I don't care I don't care  
windy hair, windy hair  
Spin, spin, spin!*

Hurricane was still spinning, trying to blow them off the boat. He was so angry he was crying and his tears made so much rain.

But squirrel sang:

*"You can't spin forever, your spinning is done.  
The sun will come, the sun will come!"*

The raccoons took their friends to rat's house. It was in the wall of a house and the house was still okay. All the animals huddled together, safe and warm.

*I don't care I don't care  
windy hair, windy hair  
Spin, spin, spin!*

But Harvey was spinning slower. He was running out of water.

"I'm tired of spinning," he sighed. He was so tired.

The animals sang:

*"You can't spin forever, your spinning is done.  
Here comes the Sun. Here comes the SUN.*

*The sun will dry up every drop  
Spinning, spinning, spinning- STOP."*

The sun was coming out. So golden and strong and full of light.

Harvey became tiny. He became a tiny raindrop again. He fell down and went to sleep. He was so tired of spinning.

The water dried up. The animals helped squirrel find a new tree and they built her a new home. She helped the raccoons and mockingbird build new nests. The rat cooked them dinner. They were safe and warm and so happy to be friends.

And the sun was making a rainbow again.

*Snip, snap, snout  
Our tale is all told out.*

The End

**Art Activity:**

Draw Harvey

Materials: paper, bigger the better. Crayons. Water color. Can also use glitter, bits of tin foil.

Adult narrator:

“Harvey was like a tiny dot you make with a crayon.  
Make tiny scribbles, around and around. Slowly, slowly.  
Now go a little faster...  
and a little faster...  
Now really really fast!

And slower- the sun is coming.  
Slower...  
slower...  
and.... stop.”

Children can paint over the crayon drawings with watercolor, and decorate with bits of foil or glitter.

**Movement Activity:**

Need: small drum or empty wastebasket to be a makeshift drum. Could also just clap.  
Long streams of paper: crepe paper, toilet paper  
Flashlight, if you have one.

Roles:

- Narrator- adult or older child for the first few times.
- One child to be hurricane. Hurricane holds long streamers in her hands. (Helpful: to mark out a square or circle with masking tape or designate a rug for Hurricane, so Hurricane knows where her boundaries are and will not hurt herself.)
- One or more child to be Sun. Sun holds the flashlight.
- Extra children can be baby animals, hiding under a table or in some sort of “shelter.” Stuffed animals can be good props.

Hurricane child begins on the floor like a little tiny raindrop.

Narrator slowly chants, accompanied by drum or clapping:

*I don't care I don't care  
windy hair, windy hair  
Spin, spin, spin!*

Slowly. “Now the raindrop gets bigger. Stand up!”  
Chant again. Faster. “Now you are a hurricane! Go faster!”

Chant again, very fast.

Chanter stops drumming. Sun child comes out and shines flashlight on Hurricane child.  
Chanter says:

*“You can’t spin forever, your spinning is done.  
Here comes the Sun. Here comes the SUN.”*

*The sun will dry up every drop  
Spinning, spinning, spinning- STOP.”*

“Fall to the ground now Hurricane! You are finished!”

The end.

Repeat until children lose interest, then let them loose with toilet paper, the shelter, and the flashlight and let them free play!