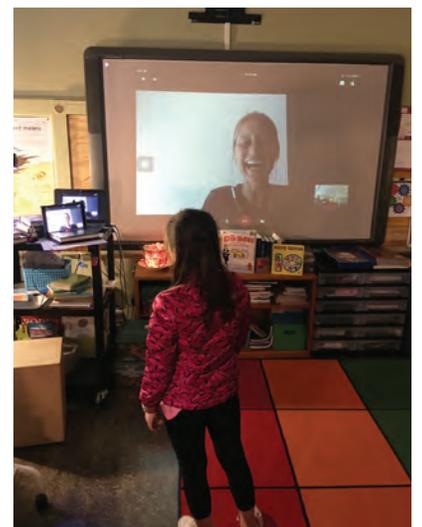


# The NOCTURNALS

Virtual Visits



# FABLED FILMS

NEW YORK CITY

All too often, adults stop reading to kids as soon as they are able to read on their own. Tracey Hecht's Read Aloud Writing Workshop reminds everyone of the joys of read aloud at all ages and engages readers in the writing process.

Hecht's workshop explains how she develops her animal characters based on real-life animal physiologies, and how storylines are developed, written, work-shopped and read out-loud as part of the manuscript development. Most of all, the program shows how fun it is for kids and families to enjoy reading The Nocturnals together.

## **The Nocturnals Library/School Visit from Tracey Hecht—as of 2018**

### **Section One**

Intro: About the Author

Visuals, a few slides of Tracey's writing environment in Maine. Show Tracey's writing environments in NYC/Oquossoc. Give a few anecdotes about her writing- what time of day, how she works etc.

### **Section Two**

Coming Up With An Idea: Bedtime and Night Sounds Visuals

Images of night sky and nocturnal animals in Maine. Start with story of putting her kids to bed and hearing what was around the house/what they could hear (beavers, coyotes, mink etc), lead to more research about nocturnal animals, lead to research of Australian mammals.

### **Section Three**

Character Development: The Nocturnals

Visuals—pangolin/sugar glider/fox images and then illustrated images from the books and how they came to be. Slides of what animals she researched and why she found some more compelling than others. Physiological bullet points and how they informed character development.

### **Section Four**

The Writing: Creating a "Voice"

Read excerpts from several books and make the kids guess which is which. A Roald Dahl, a James Marshall (George and Martha) and a Nocturnals quote. Pair written pieces, the excerpts, on slides to show 'author' voice and 'series' voice. (This will vary depending on the age and grade of the kids.)

### **Section Five**

The 3-2-1: Bismark, Tobin and Dawn. Show examples from text of what they heard in Section Four from The Nocturnals. Talk about how Fabled Films Press writes as a team and how they have a reader come to the office to read and 'workshop' the material out loud to hear the character voice.

### **Section Six**

Learn How a Book is Published

Tracey discusses how a book is created from the manuscript to the illustrations to the printer and then production and marketing of the book.

### **End**

Thank you slide with image books and information on how to get our free educational resources and activity kits available on the website.

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JULY 2018

## Praise for The Nocturnals & Tracey Hecht's Virtual Visits

"On our Google Hangout session: The students were so excited to meet the author of the book they had been reading - and they thought the virtual visit was "very cool". They had lots of questions for Tracey about the plot, the characters and the process of writing a book. Tracey had asked me for their names ahead of time and using a photo I provided, she was able to call on students by name during our session. **This was great - it seemed like she was actually in the room with us and the kids were totally engaged.**"—Patricia Ryckman, Librarian, Dorothy I Height Elementary School, Washington, D.C.

"We had a spec-tac-u-lar author visit with Tracey. The kids were eager to ask her questions or tell her their favorite characters from the Nocturnals books, and **Tracey always found a way to connect their comments to the topic of writing. Her explanation that editing and rewriting is like smoothing out the icing on a cake until you get it just right, was the perfect comparison for the students to understand.** Warm, wonderful, fun, and friendly - a virtual visit with Tracey is a great way to inspire your budding authors."—Suzanne Costner, School Library Media Specialist, Fairview Elementary School, Maryville, TN

**"We really enjoyed our visit with Tracey! I really wished I'd done it earlier in the year, I can't keep the books on the shelves now.** It was my first experience using this type of set up for a visit. Now that I've done it once, I can see better ways to have everyone seated and get everyone more involved. I appreciated Tracey's patience and enthusiasm with the students' questions and comments. I would say it was a valuable experience for everyone.— Lora Irvine, School Librarian, Howard Kennedy Elementary School, Omaha, NE

"The visit with Tracey was great! My students and teachers who attended really liked it. We all agreed that Tracey is so warm, bubbly, and an overall great presenter. **They liked her combination of face time and presentation and loved that they had time to ask as many questions as they wanted.** I had to cut the kids off only because we had to get back to class. We also appreciate all of the "capes" that were sent beforehand. I don't know if Tracey was able to see during the visit but some of the kids brought their stuffed animals that were wearing the capes."—Blanca Balli, Judge Oscar De La Fuente Elementary, San Benito, Texas

"My 3rd grade class loves Tracey Hecht! I read aloud The Nocturnals: The Mysterious Abductions to the class, each student read The Ominous Eye and then we were lucky enough to have a video conference call with Tracey. **She is such an amazing author and such a giving interviewee. My students and I learned even more about Dawn, Tobin and Bismark** and we look forward to reading The Fallen Star and anything else Tracey writes!" -Bonnie Quinn, 4th Grade Teacher, Francis Scott Key Elementary, San Francisco, CA

"**Tracey was absolutely stellar. Bonnie and I have not stopped talking about how amazing she was with the kids. And the kids were so excited! I think she inspired some writers.** When next school year starts I'm going to reach out to other schools. I want a Nocturnals phenomenon on our hands!" —Katerina Argyres, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA

"**Without a doubt, we know this will be an experience they will never forget.** I hope we can continue this tradition next year. Thank you again!" —Liana Rosenman, Marjorie Berman, Nicole George, Esmahan Succar, Corinne Nieves, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, P.S. 19 The Asher Levy School, New York, NY

"Tracey was great with the kids despite some technical difficulties on our end. Our students had a lot of questions for her about being an author and I think she inspired a couple to continue to pursue their creative writing. **It meant a lot to the kids to talk with a "real" author.**"—Sherri Lazenby, School Librarian, East Point, Georgia