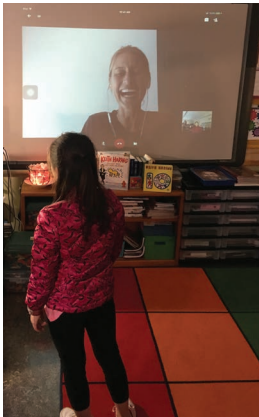


The CTURNALS

Virtual Visits



The Nocturnals SEL Workshop: *Learning Courage Through Stories*

Presentation is appropriate for children ages 5-8 | Time: 30 minutes plus Q&A time

Workshop Outline

Introduction

The Power of Stories

Tracey Hecht shares how stories help children learn and understand different feelings and associated actions. She introduces *The Nocturnals*, a Grow & Read early reader series, and the main characters. Dawn the serious fox, Tobin the sweet pangolin, and Bismark the loud-mouthed sugar glider each demonstrate a different emotion.

Section One

SEL Theme Spotlight: Courage

Hecht focuses on the specific SEL theme of courage. She provides the definition, synonyms, and different ways to build courage, including speaking up, standing next to friends, and wearing something special.

Section Two

The Slithery Shakedown Storytime and Discussion Questions

Hecht reads chapter 3 and 4 of *The Slithery Shakedown*, a Grow & Read Level 2 book, where the Nocturnals meet a bullying snake and gain courage to stand up for themselves. Hecht invites students to think about how each character acted and how they would respond themselves.

Section Four

Real-Life Application

Students connect the story themes back to their own lives as Hecht takes them through different examples. She shares three situations where students show courage in the face of a new food item, a new home, and a bully.

Section Five

*Interactive Hand Drawing Activity**

*Participants will need the printable Hand Drawing Activity or a blank piece of paper and drawing utensils for this activity.

Students draw 5 examples of courage from their own life. Hecht provides a step-by-step example to inspire the students in their own drawings.

Conclusion

Takeaway

Hecht encourages students to continue showing courage and provides information on other Nocturnals early reader books, which explore different SEL themes. There is also information on the complete SEL guide for educators and more activities and video content on NocturnalsWorld.com.

Q&A time

Praise for Tracey Hecht's Virtual Author Visits

"Tracey Hecht is one talented writer and presenter. **She understands kids and how to connect with them, both through her books and during a virtual author visit...** We had all grades K-4 attend and Tracey engaged with them all! She was so warm and friendly from the beginning to the end. She addressed the students who were asking questions by name, which made them feel so special... **Fabled Films Press made the entire process super easy.** Thank you all!"

—Terri Franz, Librarian, Oak Street Elementary, Goddard, KS

"On our Google 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"... 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.

"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."

—Blanca Balli, Judge Oscar De La Fuente Elementary, San Benito, TX

"My class participated in a Virtual Visit with Tracey. **She did an excellent job keeping the students engaged and answering their questions...** It was a wonderful experience and I hope to do it again in the future."

—Jill Kussel, Kindergarten Teacher, St Paul's Lutheran Grade School, Concordia, MO

"**To hold the attention of 9 years olds for over an hour and leave them wanting more is quite a success!** We are so happy that Tracey Hecht was able and willing to meet with our 4th graders. Everyone, including the adults in the room, enjoyed the experience and learned a few things! The level of engagement increased, thanks to you!"

—Daphne Amster, Grade 4th & 5th Teacher, Edgewater Elementary School, Quebec City, Canada

"Thank you so much for sharing your experiences with Bel-Air, and being so patient and answering so many questions for so long! Our students were so excited to hear from you, and the theme at recess revolved around the book... **You really made the book come alive, and it was such a great fit for this week.**"

—Hannah Mainolfa, Principal, Bel-Air Elementary School, Albuquerque, NM

"**We were just blown away by Tracey! She is a wonderful speaker—so energetic and very inspiring for our students!** The students and parents connected so strongly with *The Nocturnals*. Some families said it was the first time they sat down all year to read together. At Hunting Ridge, we have 43 different languages that are spoken in the homes of our students. I wanted a book that could engage our diverse student population and had a theme of acceptance of differences and working together to solve a problem. *The Nocturnals* hit it out of the ballpark!"

—Cheryl Harsh, Reading Specialist, Community Consolidated School District 15, Palatine, IL