

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 2020

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.