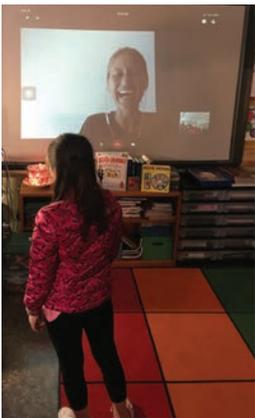


# The CTURNALS

Virtual Visits



*The Nocturnals Virtual Author Program from Tracey Hecht*

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Presentation is appropriate for children ages 5-12 | Time: 30 minutes plus Q&A time

**Tracey Hecht's Read Aloud Writing Workshop Outline**

**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.

**Praise for Tracey Hecht's Virtual Author Visit Program and  
The Nocturnals Read Aloud Writing Workshop**

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**As Seen In *School Library Journal* "[Awesome Author Visits](#)" by Heather Booth – September 2018**

"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. This was the first visit of this kind hosted by our school. We had all grades K-4 attend and Tracey engaged with them all! Fabled Films Press made the entire process super easy. Thank you all!" —**Terri Franz, Librarian, Oak Street Elementary, Goddard, KS**

"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. I would say it was a valuable experience for everyone."

—**Lora Irvine, School Librarian, Howard Kennedy Elementary School, Omaha, NE**

"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. 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**

"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**

"She did an excellent job keeping the students engaged and answering their questions. She included them in the writing process so they were able to understand that even kindergarteners can be writers! It was a wonderful experience." —**Jill Kussel, Kindergarten Teacher, St Paul's Lutheran Grade School, Concordia, MO**

"Wrapping up (our All School Read of *The Mysterious Abductions*) with a virtual visit with author Tracy Hecht is something our students and staff will not forget. What a positive learning experience this is for any age level!" —**Jayne Pleasant, Primary/Intermediate Librarian, Spring Hill Independent School District, Longview, TX**

"My 3rd grade class loves Tracey Hecht! 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 anything else Tracey writes!" —**Bonnie Quinn, 4th Grade Teacher, Francis Scott Key Elementary, San Francisco, CA**

"Tracey was very personable and engaging. The students asked great questions. I just purchased the second and third book for the library along with a beginner reader. All of the books are checked out and have holds for the next student." —**Karen Ardent, Library Media Specialist, Josiah Bartlett Elementary School, Hanover, NH**

"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, 5th 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, GA**

"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". 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, DC**