

# The NOCTURNALS

Read Aloud Writing Workshop



FABLED FILMS PRESS  
NEW YORK CITY



# Tracey Hecht's The Nocturnals Author Visits



**Read Aloud Writing Workshop Outline** | 30-40 minutes plus Q&A time | For children ages 5-12

## 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, ME. Give a few anecdotes about her writing- what time of day, how she works etc.

## Section One

### 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), which lead to more research about nocturnal animals.

## 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 and how it inspired the new nonfiction books. Physiological bullet points explore 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. 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 '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, and explains the differences of working with a team of experts on her new nonfiction books.

## End

### Thank you and Q&A

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 The Nocturnals Author Visits



## VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISITS

Praise for The Nocturnals Read Aloud Writing Workshop and The Nocturnals SEL Workshop

“**Thoughtful, engaging, enthusiastic, and inclusive** when speaking about her books and the writing process with children. I would **recommend it to any educator.**”

—*Amanda Thayer, Library Media Technician,  
Hawthorne Elementary, San Luis Obispo, CA*

“**Amazing author and such a giving interviewee.** My students and I learned even more about *The Nocturnals*, and we look forward to reading anything else Tracey writes!”

—*Bonnie Quinn, 4th Grade Teacher,  
Francis Scott Key Elementary, San Francisco, CA*

“One talented writer and presenter. Tracey **understands kids and how to connect with them**, both through her books and during a virtual author visit. Fabled Films Press **made the entire process super easy!**”

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

“Tracey was amazing! She **answered all the questions the kids had, and certainly inspired my writers** in training! We can't wait to do this again with new classes.”

—*Joanie LaMonaca, 3rd Grade Teacher,  
P.S. 29 The Bardwell School, Staten Island, NY*

“Tracey is most engaging in her presentations and **connects in such an authentic way** with students!”

—*Carissa O’Gara, Literacy Coordinator,  
Book Companions Book Club  
Moultonborough School District, Moultonborough, NH*

“**Warm, bubbly, and an overall great presenter.** Students 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, Librarian,  
Oscar De La Fuente Elementary, San Benito, TX*

“**To hold the attention of 9-year-olds for over an hour** and leave them wanting more is quite a success! Everyone, including the adults in the room, enjoyed the experience!”

—*Daphne Amster, Grade 4/5 Teacher,  
Edgewater Elementary, QC, Canada*

## ALL SCHOOL READS

Praise for Workshops Following All School Reads of *The Nocturnals: The Mysterious Abductions*

“We were blown away by Tracey! She is a wonderful speaker—so energetic and very inspiring! **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.”

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

“The sense of togetherness we built [reading *The Nocturnals*] **will be remembered fondly for years to come.** The 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*

“An excellent speaker who was able to keep the attention of the students. **She has a contagious passion for reading,** and it was evident in her presentation!”

—*Connie Ankenbauer, Reading Specialist,  
Coon Rapids-Bayard School, Coon Rapids, IA*

“Our virtual author visit was the first time our whole school was together on Zoom after the closure, and it was **such a special experience. Tracey connected with us instantly, and we were enthralled** with her tips and tricks for inspiring our young writers.”

—*Kristi Gile, Instructional Coach,  
Crownhill Elementary, Bremerton, WA*

“The students loved meeting Tracey. She is a **fantastic speaker.** The Q&A, diving into her writing process, and tip and tricks for young developing writers were inspiring! **We’re very grateful for all the support Fabled Films has provided throughout our [All School Read].**”

—*Marisa Bell, Reading Specialist,  
Bedminster Elementary, Perkaskie, PA*

“Recess revolved around [*The Nocturnals*]...Tracey really **made the book come alive,** and it was such a great fit.”

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

# Early Reader Books for Ages 4-8

Join Dawn, Tobin, and Bismark in delightful stories that introduce emerging readers to SEL/CASEL 5 Competencies. The books use sight words, textual repetition, and colorful illustrations to grow reading skills.



**Read Sample Chapters Now!**



**The Tasty Treat (Level 1)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-30-9 | Lexile 380L | Fountas & Pinnell L  
**The Best Burp (Level 1)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-31-6 | Lexile 380L | Fountas & Pinnell K  
**The Moonlight Meeting (Level 2)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-14-9 | Lexile 480L | Fountas & Pinnell L  
**The Slithery Shakedown (Level 2)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-16-3 | Lexile 440L | Fountas & Pinnell M

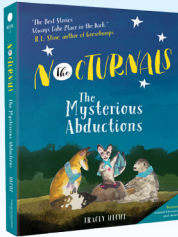
**The Peculiar Possum (Level 2)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-20-0 | Lexile 470L | Fountas & Pinnell P  
**The Chestnut Challenge (Level 3)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-23-1 | Lexile 520L | Fountas & Pinnell N  
**The Kooky Kinkajou (Level 3)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-24-8 | Lexile 500L | Fountas & Pinnell L  
**The Weeping Wombat (Level 3)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-33-0 | Lexile 490L | Fountas & Pinnell M

**Positive Professional Reviews:**  
Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal

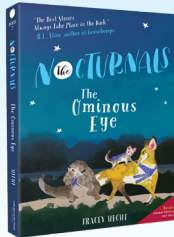
**ER Book Specs:**  
Trim: 6" x 9" | Level 1 Pages: 40 | Level 2 & 3 Pages: 64  
PB \$5.99 | Also in HC and E | Four-color illustrations.  
Books include Bonus Nocturnals Fun Facts!

# Middle Grade Books for Ages 9-12

The fun-filled adventures feature captivating plot twists and plenty of humor as the Nocturnals solve the unpredictable mysteries of the night.



**The Mysterious Abductions (Book 1)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-02-6 | Lexile 530L | Fountas & Pinnell S  
**The Ominous Eye (Book 2)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-10-1 | Lexile 580L | Fountas & Pinnell T



**The Fallen Star (Book 3)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-07-1 | Lexile 630L | Fountas & Pinnell S  
**The Hidden Kingdom (Book 4)**  
ISBN 978-1-944020-13-2 | Lexile 630L | Fountas & Pinnell T



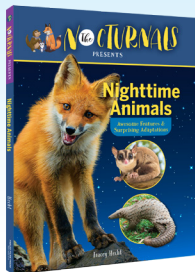
**AR Quiz for Books 1 & 2**

**Positive Professional Reviews:**  
Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal, School Library Connection

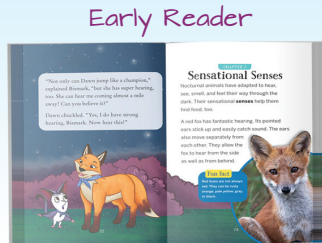
**MG Book Specs:**  
Trim: 5 1/2" x 8" | Book 1 Pages: 232 | Book 2 - 4 Pages: 208  
Book 1,3,4 PB \$8.99 | Book 2 PB \$9.99 | Also in HC and E | Four-color spot illustrations.  
Bonus PB content: Animal Glossary, Author Q&A & more!

# Nonfiction Companion Books

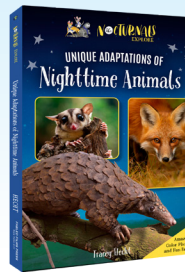
Connect kids to the science behind *The Nocturnals*! Jam-packed with fun facts, color photos, and a fiction narrative to support learning.



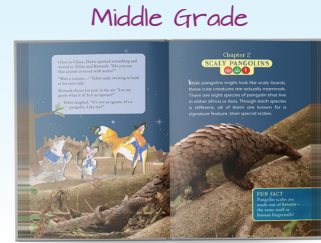
**The Nocturnals Presents**  
**Nighttime Animals: Awesome Features & Surprising Adaptations**  
Trim: 6" x 9" | Pages: 64 | Color Photos: 80  
ISBN 978-1-944020-70-5 | Lexile 740L | Fountas & Pinnell R



**Early Reader**



**The Nocturnals Explore**  
**Unique Adaptations of Nighttime Animals**  
Trim: 5 1/2" x 8" | Pages: 144 | Color Photos: 150  
ISBN 978-1-944020-72-9 | Lexile 930L | Fountas & Pinnell S



**Middle Grade**

**Positive Professional Reviews:**  
Foreword Reviews, Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal

**NF Book Specs:**  
ER PB \$6.99 | MG PB \$8.99 | Also in HC and E.  
Bonus Middle Grade content includes Nocturnal Feature Icon Key and Night Notes