

“Something Else is Alive”: The Power of Animal Metaphors

A Little Patuxent Review/Columbia Association Arts Center Salon

Led by Maryland State Arts Council Artist-in-Education Laura Shovan

May 10, 7:30-8:30 PM

C/A Arts Center

6100 Foreland Garth

Columbia, MD 21045

*I imagine this midnight moment's forest:
Something else is alive
Beside the clock's loneliness
And this blank page where my fingers move.*

From “The Thought Fox,” by Ted Hughes

What makes animal metaphors an enduring and powerful part of literature?

Some fictional villains slither like a snake or prowl like a wolf. Conflicts can make a novel's protagonist retreat into her shell like a turtle. Authors as varied as children's novelist Kate DiCamillo, fantasy author J.K. Rowling, John Updike, and poet Ted Hughes use animals in their work to express deeper truths.

Bring an animal totem, a favorite poem or a piece of prose to share and discuss. Be prepared to write. Teens are welcome!

Laura will be signing her award-winning chapbook, *Mountain, Log, Salt and Stone*, after the salon.