

Wrecking Season Teacher's Resources No.3 - Jane Darke

The Wrecking Season Film Script-

This is an extract from the script at the beginning of the film.

- The underlined words describe the visual picture being filmed.
- The bold print tells you who is speaking. v/o means voice over.
- The blue writing shows what is being said.

The *italic* writing shows what the caption on the screen is saying

Boat Shed Films Present.

Nick. V/o. People ask me what's the most extraordinary thing I've found on a beach, I always tell them this. It's a piece of parquet flooring, and I found it on this beach, in the middle of a gale, it was a completely clear beach and two foot away from it was this, another piece of parquet flooring. How did they stay together, how did they get here and how long had they been in the sea.

Big wave

TITLE: The Wrecking Season

Nick on Beach 08/10/01 **Nick v/o.** Strong NorthWesterly. Near gale. Checked Watergate, it was hot. Much stuff along the front, not fresh, but not more than two days old, which was the last time I looked.

Nick v/o Nick putting wreck on table close up This was what I found: lobster tags, sea beans, a Florida tag, three Kevin's, Lego bits. This was about a month's bounty on a single tide and all on one beach. – *Caption: Nick Darke Playwright.* Constantine, Treyarnon, Porthcothan, Mawgan Porth, Penhale, Fistral, Holywell, Polzeath, I checked them all and they were all clean, nothing on them.

Zoom to moon and pan across the sun. **Nick v/o.** Cornwall is a finger of rock sticking out into the Atlantic, surrounded by water on three sides. This coast faces West.

Shots of sea coming in/moon/clouds/Nick in car/walking strandline

Nick v/o. The tide comes in and goes out again twice a day and each time it leaves a strandline. And every item on that strandline has been on a journey and has a story to tell.

Nick v/o Some are local and some have travelled for thousands of miles.

Shots of found objects on beaches and Nick

Nick v/o I'm a modern wrecker and one way or another I can trace everything. A quick search on the internet locates any object back to its source.

Nick with sea behind

Nick to camera I can't speak very well. I had a stroke recently which affected my reading and my writing but it made me cut the crap out of my life and prioritise. I now plan my life by the tides.

Nick on Penhale, Gwythian etc

Nick v/o When I go out first thing in the morning, working the beaches, I say I'm wrecking, not beachcombing.

Nick v/o When I find something I ask three questions – what is it? Where's it come from and what is it doing on the ocean?

Nick painting big red buoy.

Ringtone

Greg v/o Hello this is Greg.

Nick If you wouldn't mind just telling me what it is and what they're used for.

Greg Sub surface flotation device.

Nick What would the umm instruments be used for then?

Greg Umm well the instruments collect data for people like the National Oceanographic administration and weather services, *caption voice of Greg MaEachern Ocean Research Equipment*. Um there's plenty of them in the Gulf of Mexico. Could easily have come out of the Gulf of Mexico and travelled from there.

Nick Right.

Greg Was it painted? Was there paint on it, or was it all rust now?

Nick No it was red.

Greg Was there a lot of growth on it?

Nick No none at all

Greg Well if there's no growth on it then chances are it was a subsurface float and it was down fairly deep.

Nick standing in front of Glencoe. Pan down Porthcothan

Nick to camera and v/o I was born in this house. My family has lived in this cove for four generations, having moved from Padstow. When I was a boy everyone in the parish went wrecking.

Nick as a boy fishing 8mm

Nick v/o The first thing I ever found was a big tin of sherbert. It was sitting there on the strandline one morning, it was yellow. I ate the lot and I was sick in the river.

Nick and Jim silent

Nick v/o My son Jim is a marine biologist and every time he comes home he tells me something new about the gulf stream.

Jim and globe/map

Jim to camera So, we've got Cornwall. Over here the North Coast of South America. The Caribbean, Florida, Maine and Massachusetts all along here where the lobster and cod fisheries once was, the lobster fishery is still going. Now, here's these North Equatorial currents, and south, they circulate around the Gulf of Mexico and up or may pass just North of these Caribbean islands here, and they re-group to form the warm Gulf stream, and the gulf stream runs all the way up here across the coast of North America all the way over here, some of it running into the Norwegian Sea and the Russian Arctic sea, and then some of it peals around and regroupes here with the equatorial currents, and some of it actually meets cooler waters here and pushes back down and along the coast joining the Labrador current.

Particles in water on sand

Nick v/o The Gulf Stream keeps us warm and delivers all our long haul drift. It runs up the spine of the Atlantic it cools, sinks and runs back down again, part of the conveyor which shifts currents around the globe.

Nick to camera It's a hundred times bigger than the Amazon. One of its tributaries is called the North Atlantic Current, which runs right passed my door.

Curt Ebbesmeyer on beach

Curt v/o There are a few places around the world where Mother nature puts all her stuff and one of them is around where Nick lives another is Coco Beach and another is Oregon Washington and having people there to observe and report is incredible. I know that that part of the coast is one of the world's great collection spots, things from literally all over the world – the global conveyor belt, dumps material right there. And to have an observer right there looking for all these things is just fabulous.

Nick putting parquet flooring on table

Nick v/o Curt Ebbesmeyer is an oceanographer who specialises in surface currents. He tracks anything that floats. He lives in Seattle, USA on the other side of the planet and he gave me a clue as to what it was that kept the parquet flooring together.

Water flowing out to sea

Curt v/o The currents on the maps are generally shown as smooth arrows. But the ocean when you're out there is actually very patchy. There are all kinds of blobs of water around and the blobs of water hang on to what they have because blobs of water don't mix very well and if you happen to have one in your back yard it'll dump on your beach what it has. If you see one sometimes the water will smell different it'll look different and it'll carry different flotsam.

Nick on a beach finding a tag

Nick v/o I came across Curt when I was researching a lobster tag that I'd found.

Nick and tag and cut always to tags on beaches etc.

Nick to camera Every trap in North America has by law to display a tag. Printed on them are the year they were issued, the fisherman's license number, his federal number, and the zone that he can fish.

A pile of tags

Curt v/o Florida has a very well developed tag industry and so does Newfoundland...

V/o Dept of fisheries and ocean NFLD -tags

Hi Mr. Darke, The tag you found on Watergate Beach is the kind used as a means of enforcing trap limits in the lobster fishery – *caption – Dept of fisheries and Oceans Newfoundland* each licence holder being issued the appropriate number of tags at the start of the season each year. This one was issued to Mr. Jerry M. Tucker, Little Bay Islands, Newfoundland. Mr. Tucker was questioned by a local fishery officer and said he discarded the tag at the end of June 1999 when he was putting his traps ashore.

Big sea coming in on rocks

Nick v/o on 11th Oct the following year it washed ashore on this beach

Nick and Jerry v/o lighthouse/car/gales/stuff washing in/ cartridge cases/ Guillemot: Push button tone

Nick Hello is that Jerry?

Jerry Yes sir it's Jerry.

Nick Hi my name's Nick Darke and I live in Cornwall in Great Britain.

Jerry Right sir.

Nick The thing is I'm making a film do you mind if I have a little chat with you?

Jerry No not at all sir

Nick Ok. The film that we're making is about all the stuff that we find on the beach in Cornwall.

Jerry Right

Nick Which is right at the end of the, um, the British Isles.

Jerry Right. *Caption: voice of Newfoundland Fisherman Jerry Tucker.*

Nick And it's the west coast and we pick up a lot of your fishing gear from Newfoundland. I think we're on almost exactly the same latitude that you are on.

Jerry Yes yes close to it sir.

Nick But there's no current at all that goes straight across.

Jerry No there's not. Actually anything that you would get especially from our part of the coast has to go south for a while first and then it would meet up with the Gulf Stream and go across that way.

Nick We get an enormous amount of twelve gauge cartridge cases.

Jerry ok yes sir – most of that now is for the large tur hunting season on the Newfoundland coast and I would say that is where you're getting most of those.

Nick Sorry what is it?

Jerry Turs a they're a kind of marine bird.

Nick Right that's interesting.

Jerry Murs or turs.. yup, yup.

Nick We call them here guillemots

Jerry ok ok.

Nick And you eat them?

Jerry Oh god yes there a delicacy here for us Newfoundlanders. They're quite a tasty sea bird.

Nick Wow.

Jerry Yup. Everyone tries to get a few put away for the winter.

Nick Of course if we tried to kill a guillemot here we'd be put in gaol.

Jerry Oh okay. *Laughter.*

Nick in boat

To camera Every contact that I make gives me a larger picture of what life is like on the Eastern seaboard of the Americas.

Nick puts trap on table/close ups

Email Betsy Daniels: Nick, What you found was a stone crab trap (species *menippe mercenaria*). Some of these traps have been sold to fishermen *caption- e-mail from Betsy Daniels Florida traps inc USA* in the Bahamas to try. On this crab only the claws are taken and the body thrown back overboard to regenerate new ones. These traps are mainly fished in the Gulf of Mexico from 3 miles out to 60 miles out. By the way, we are in Marathon, 50 miles North of Key West, South of Miami. I hope this enlightens you and answers your questions. If not, please write back. Betsy Daniels.

Questions to think about, investigate and discuss

1. **What** information do the captions give you?
2. What do you learn about Nick from this extract?
Try and find at least five things?
3. **Where** did the red buoy come from? Can you find out any more about sub-surface flotation devices?
4. What does Jim use to help explain how the Gulf Stream current flows?

5. **Who** is Curt Ebbesmeyer and what does he do? Can you find out any more about him? How?
6. **Why** does every lobster trap in North America have to have a tag?
7. **How** many months did the tag discarded by Mr. Tucker in Newfoundland take to reach Porthcothan beach in Cornwall (June 1999 -Oct 2000)?
8. **Who is Jerry Tucker, what does he do and where does he come from?**
9. Nick asks Jerry about the cartridge cases, Jerry explains that they use them to shoot birds called Turs (we call them guillemots here), why are they protected in the U.K. but not in Newfoundland?
10. **Why do you think the film starts with a big wave?**
11. **How does the music in the film match the action?**
12. **Why do you think that sometimes there is a voice over and sometimes people are speaking directly in front of camera?**

Be creative now write a short script for your own film or animation, it could be about wrecking or anything that you feel strongly about. You could try filming it using a flip camera, phone or tablet computer.