



The Noble Architect Foundation

121 B Pleasant Street SW
Vienna, Virginia 22180
P: 703.242.4401
F: 703.242.4403
Bahram@thenoblearchitect.com

Conversations with My Daughter How to write a book – part 1

July 2008 driving from Williamsburg, VA

T: Dad, I want to write a book.

Dad: I think it's a great Idea.

T: Can you help me?

Dad: What do you mean? Are we writing it together?

T: No! You just help me.

Dad: Explain to me what that means. If I help you write a book I'd be the "co author" of the book.

T: What is a co author?

Dad: It would be the second author.

T: I'm the author; and the illustrator too!

Dad: What am I, then?

T: You just help me.

Dad: What kind of help?

T: Tell me what I should write about.

Dad: You're kidding me, right?

T: I'm serious.

Dad: The first thing you need in writing a book is a subject. You, either, know a subject and you can comfortably write about it, or, you are willing to research it and write about it.

T: Okay, dad. I want to write about a Pegasus.

Dad: That's interesting. What do you want to write about a Pegasus?

T: Well, there are three sisters walking from school and all of a sudden this pink Pegasus appears out of pink smoke.

Dad: Exciting! Then what happens?

T: she (the Pegasus) takes the girls on her back and flies to Egypt.

Dad: To Egypt. Why Egypt?

T: Well, the three sisters are members of an ancient history club and want to go for an adventure.

Dad: Love it! Continue!

T: That's it.

Dad: That's your story? That's your book?

T: Now you help me.

Dad: That's a great start. What are the names of these young ladies? You have to give a bit more information. Is this short story?

T: No a chapter book.

Dad: How many chapters?

T: 26.

Dad: Why 26?

T: I don't know dad; I just want 26 chapters.

Dad: I have to ask because I'm writing it, right?

T: No, daddy! I'm writing it; you just help me.

Dad: Do you remember what I said about writing?

T: You have to know your subject.

Dad: That too! I, also, said every piece of writing has three parts to it: introduction, body and conclusion.

T: Yeah!

Dad: Is that a yes? Because "yeah" means you're not interested in listening. If that's the case we'll talk later.



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T: Okay! Okay!

Dad: What do we know about writing?

T: I don't know.

Dad: Well, the subject is obvious; you've got to know the subject! You've got to know what it is you want to write about. Then, write a little about what it is you want to say. And, after that, you move on to supporting your idea. My theory is that... are you listening – honey? T.....? T.....? Sweet dreams! Sleep tight! Don't let the booster seat bugs bite!
