

Conversations with My Daughter A book written for boys!

Thursday July 16th, 2009

T: Dad, do you know Robert Louis Stevenson?

Dad: I sure do. You bought some of his books last year.

T: I started reading the Treasure Island.

Dad: I have read that; many, many years ago. Don't ask me about it, though. I'm not sure I remember much. Plus, I read it in a different language.

T: Mary Pope Osborne wrote the introduction to his book.

Dad: That, I did not know.

T: You know what Stevenson once said about Treasure Island?

Dad: What did he say?

T: He said that it was a story for the boys and women were excluded.

Dad: I guess things were a lot different back then – more than a hundred – or so - years ago.

T: And, Mary Pope Osborne did not read it when she was a child because she thought the book was meant for her brothers.

Dad: Is it easy reading?

T: No! Prints are small and the story is very confusing and I don't understand some of the words.

Dad: It, certainly, not for 8-year-old girls...that's for sure!

T: Is that stereo typing?

Dad: Yes! I should have said it's not for 8-year-olds... period!

T: Thank you!

Dad: He is very crafty with the words...but, don't worry about the words. Just read them; they will begin to make sense in context and the next time you see them somewhere else.

T: Dad, do I have to read it.

Dad: No you don't. How far have you read so far?

T: I just started chapter 5 – page 37.

Dad: How many pages total?

T: 223.

Dad: Of course, if you don't read the rest of the story, you would not know how it ends...

T: I'll read it later.

Dad: Okay! Next time you want to buy classic books like this book buy hard cover. Better prints and easier to read. Tell me something -- reading it so far as you have, do you think the book is written for boys?

T: NO! (Pauses) Actually, dad, he gave a woman in the story an important role!

Dad: He did? You know, maybe someone misinterpreted his comment.

T: What is misinterpreted?

Dad: They misunderstood him. He said something and people got a wrong idea, interpreted something else.

T: I'm not sure...but, I'll read it later!

Dad: How is it going with the book you're writing?

T: Fine!

Dad: I have not seen any new work lately.

T: Remember you said some books take a lifetime to write.

Dad: Not fairy tales!

T: You said some authors take their time and it takes them a life time to write their stories.

Dad: I think you MISINTERPRETED my meanings. I think you should write and finish your story.

T: You want me to finish my book or you want me to write a good story?

Dad: Huh?