

## Conversations with My Daughter A book written for boys!

*Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 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?