



# Reading Together Diane Frankenstein With

One of Hong Kong school's most popular speakers is in town! Author and education consultant Diane W. Frankenstein will tell you how 'conversational reading' works effectively. With more than 20 years of experience in children literature, Diane also shares with you her favourite 101 books.

## Living in a world dominated by the Internet, web-based social networks, video games, and cell phones, how can we stimulate or instill a love of reading? Why is it that important?

A study out this week confirms every modern parent's fears: We've raised a whole new generation of gadget addicts. The Kaiser Family Foundation released a study that says young people spend more than 7½ hours every day – or about 53 hours a week – watching TV, playing video games, texting, listening to music and otherwise staying glued to their phones, though not in the usual manner.

My concern is that we have an entire generation plugged in and tuned out – computers often fill young minds with information at the expense of teaching them how to think. As Picasso said “Computers are useless. They can only give you answers.”

Electronic Reading and computers and other devices cannot substitute for the learning that takes place through socialisation with peers and interaction with teachers and parents – reading is thinking and talking with our children about the books they read is one of the ways to help children learn to think, to get more out of their reading. In addition, reading and talking about a story support decision-making and encourage creativity as well as help children clarify and choose values. For a value system to be effective, it cannot be imposed but needs to be chosen.

In our fast paced, media saturated world, reading with children and talking with them about the stories they have read is more important than ever before.

## You encourage ‘conversational reading’ with kids. What is conversational reading?

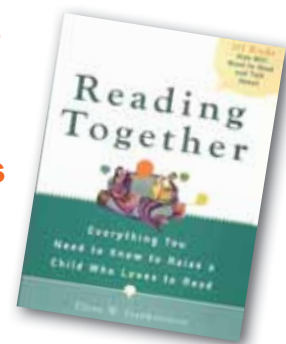
Conversational reading is talking with children about the books they read asking questions and making comments Read a book – ask a question – start a conversation. Finding meaning



in a story calls for guessing, speculation, and pondering; it's less about what you know and more about what you think. It's a little like thinking out loud. I call this skill conversational reading, which is less about trying to figure out the meaning of the stories and more about what the story means to children in their lives now. Conversational reading encourages a reader to linger, saunter, and contemplate a story; metaphorically speaking, it is shining a flashlight into a dark cave and saying, “Did you notice that?” and “Look over there.”

Conversational reading helps children develop the ability to use words to express themselves and gives them a command of language. Children who talk about stories and the subjects a story explores, better understand what they read. Children who better understand stories become more confident readers and this confidence directly impacts the pleasure children find in the stories they read. (*Reading Together*, p.8-11)

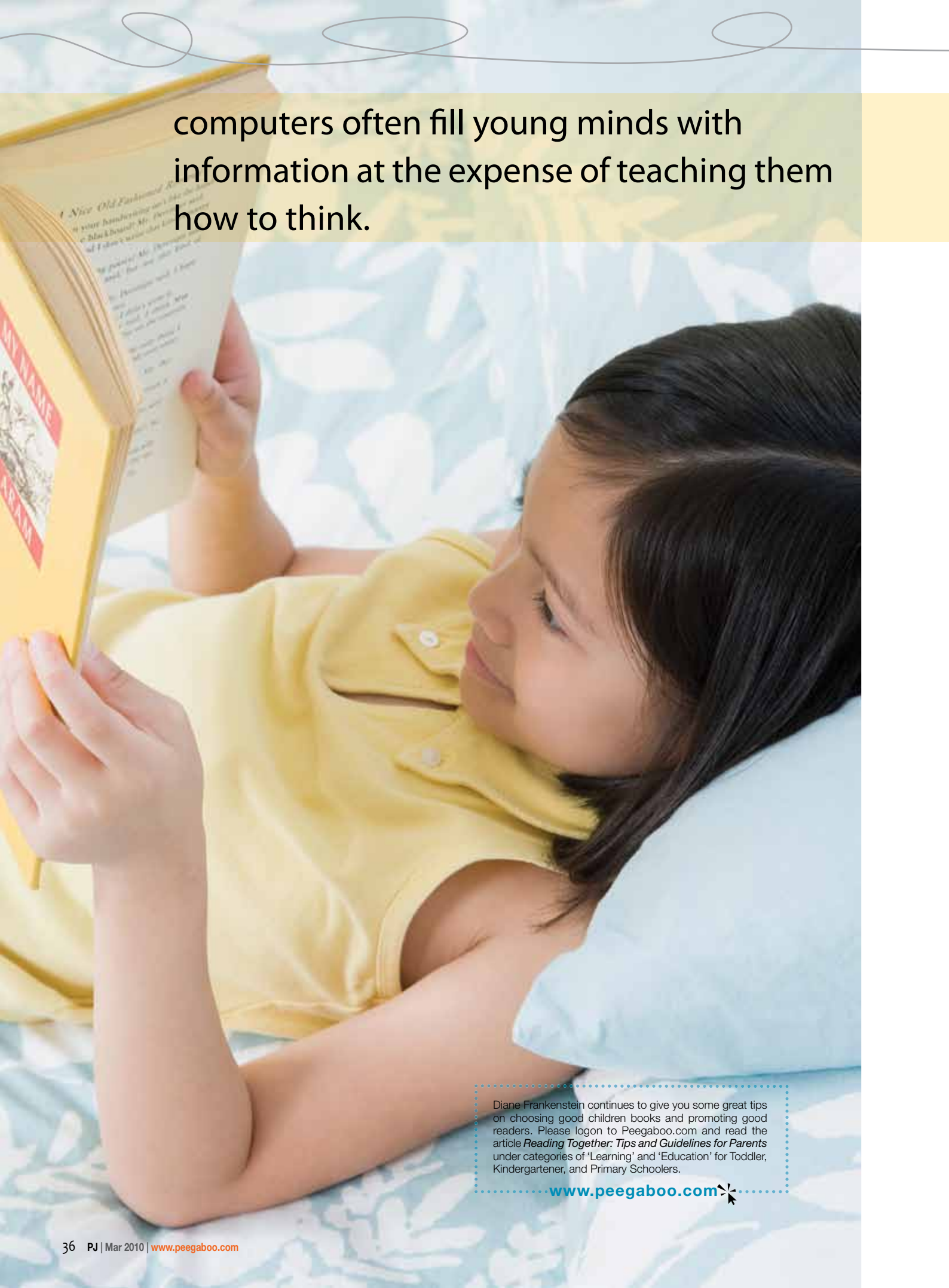
## In your new book *Reading Together*, you recommend more than 100 books and suggest related questions that get children talking and reading. How did you come about choosing these books? What do they have in common?



*Reading Together* is not a textbook on children's literature, and I don't mean to suggest these are the only books that matter.

My selection of books comes from my classes and workshops for children, parents, and teachers. My choices were predicated on my belief that books are both windows and mirrors. Windows, because they are one of the ways children extend their knowledge of the world, and mirrors, because they are one of the ways children come to understand themselves. These stories do not minimise, dumb down, or patronise the challenges children face or the emotions they feel. The titles in *Reading Together* respect children and offer stories that are diverse and are not of one mind or one perspective. They were selected based on story, literary merit, and the conversations they jump-start.

Ultimately my choices were inspired by the wisdom from one of my favourite writers, Isaac Bashevis Singer, who wrote for both children and adults. In his speech “Why I Write for Children,” delivered on the occasion of his acceptance of the National Book Award in 1970, he said, “[Children] love interesting stories, not commentary, guides, or footnotes. When a book is boring, they yawn openly, without any shame or fear of authority.” These 101 notable books are some of my favourites and I hope that many of them become your child's favourites as well. (*Reading Together*, p.11) 📖



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Diane Frankenstein continues to give you some great tips on choosing good children books and promoting good readers. Please logon to [Peegaboo.com](http://Peegaboo.com) and read the article *Reading Together: Tips and Guidelines for Parents* under categories of 'Learning' and 'Education' for Toddler, Kindergartener, and Primary Schoolers.

[www.pegaboo.com](http://www.pegaboo.com)



# 一起閱讀與 Diane Frankenstein 作伴



Diane W. Frankenstein是《Reading Together》的作者兼教育顧問，在香港學校中頗受歡迎。日前，她以演講者的身份來到香港。在採訪中，擁有20多年兒童文學方面經驗的Diane與我們講述了「對話式閱讀」的獨到之處，並分享了她的101本書。

**生活在一個互聯網、網上社交網路、電子遊戲和手機佔主導的世界裡，我們該如何激發或培養孩子對閱讀的愛好呢？為何說這件事十分重要？**

研究證實，每個現代父母所恐懼的事情都是一樣的：我們養育的一代是著迷於電玩的一代。Kaiser Family Foundation早前發佈的一項研究顯示，年輕人花在看電視、玩電子遊戲、發短訊、聽音樂、乃至機不離手地擺弄手機的時間，每天多於7.5小時，每週約為53小時，這皆超出了正常的程度。

我對整個世代的人都沉迷其中、不能自拔感到憂心——電腦常常給年輕人提供大量資訊，但卻從不會教導他們如何思考。當年畢卡索曾說：「電腦是毫無用處的，它只能給你答案。」

基於電腦或其它設備的電子讀物，是不能取代與同伴交流、與老師父母互動的學習方式——閱讀是一種思考，和孩子一起討論他們所閱讀過的書能幫助孩子學會思考、充分汲取閱讀的養分。此外，閱讀和討論故事可以提高孩子的決策能力，培養他們的創意，幫助他們厘清各種不同的價值觀並從中作出選擇。只有他們自己選擇、而非強行灌輸的價值觀體系，才會在他們的日常生活中真正起作用。

在當今這個節奏急速、媒體發達的世界裡，這種和孩子一起閱讀、討論故事的做法比以往任何時候都顯得重要。

**你鼓勵與孩子進行「對話式閱讀」。甚麼是對話式閱讀？**

對話式閱讀是透過提問和對話，與孩子談論他們所閱讀過的書籍；閱讀書籍一提出問題一展開對話。要在故事中找到意義是需要猜測、思考和心思的；它更著重於你怎樣想、你覺得怎樣，而非你知道甚麼。這有點像在心中自言自語。我稱這種技巧為對話式閱讀，其重點不在於搞清楚故事本身的含義，而在於告訴孩子這個故事對當下生活有甚麼意義。對話式閱讀鼓勵讀者在看完一個故事後便停下來，回想及思考。這過程就好像用電筒照向一個黑暗的洞穴，然後對孩子說：「你留意到那個嗎？」或「看看那邊！」

對話式閱讀幫助孩子建立運用詞語表達自己的能力，使他們掌握如何使用語言。透過談論故事及其中的主題能使小朋友更佳地理解他們所閱讀的故事。一旦能很好地理解故事，孩子的閱讀信心便會增強，而這信心更直接影響孩子在閱讀故事中所獲得的樂趣。（《Reading Together》，第8-11頁）


**在你的新書《Reading Together》中，你推薦了100多本書，並提出了一些幫助孩子討論和閱讀的問題。你是如何選擇這些書籍的？它們有甚麼共同點？**

《Reading Together》不是一本兒童文學教科書，我也不是說只能看這上面所講的書。

我選擇的書籍大多來自我給兒童、父母及老師上過的課堂及工作坊。書籍不僅是窗戶，也是鏡子——我是憑著這個信念選書的。說是窗戶，是因為書籍是孩子擴展對世界認識的方式之一；說是鏡子，是因為書籍同時也是孩子了解自己的方式之一。我選的這些故事沒有縮小、簡化或貶低孩子面對挑戰的能力和理解情感的能力。《Reading Together》這個標題正表現出對孩子的尊重，並提供各式各樣的、而非單一思想或角度的故事。我是從故事內容、文學價值及引發對話的可能性去選擇這些書籍的。

最後必須說，我的選擇亦受到我最喜愛的作家之一Isaac Bashevis Singer的啟發。他的作品包括兒童和成人。他在1970年接受美國國家圖書獎時，以「我為甚麼給孩子寫書」為題發表了演說，其中說到：「（孩子們）喜歡有趣的故事，而不喜歡評論、指南或註腳。如果一本書很沉悶，他們便會張大嘴巴打呵欠，而不會感到任何愧疚或害怕任何權威。」這101本重要的書籍中包含了許多我的最愛，我希望它們也能夠成為你孩子的最愛。（《Reading Together》，第11頁）





**書籍不僅是窗戶，也是鏡子。**

Diane Frankenstein 會繼續給你寶貴貼士，教你如何選擇合適的兒童書籍以及培育一個喜歡閱讀的孩子。請登入Peegaboo.com，到「幼兒：幼兒學習」、「幼稚園：孩子學習」及「學童：孩子學習」參看文章《一起閱讀：給父母的提示和指南》。

[www.peegaboo.com](http://www.peegaboo.com)

## Reading Together – Here's a look inside:

Apart from *Hunter's Best Friend*, there are another 100 book recommendations in Reading Together, which suggests books that are appropriate for preschool children up to grade 8.

除了《Hunter's Best Friend》，《Reading Together》推薦了另外100本書，適合學齡前至初中二年級的孩子閱讀。

# Hunter's Best Friend at School

Laura Malone Elliott

## WORLD OF IDEAS



Clowning around, doing the right thing, friendship, mischief, peer pressure, setting a good example



## Story Synopsis

**H**unter and Stripe are best friends, and Stripe comes to school one day in a mischief-making mood. Stripe entices Hunter to go along with his clowning around, even though Hunter is not sure he should. Hunter has to figure out a way to get his best friend to be his best self.



READ TOGETHER: GRADES PRE-K-2  
READ ALONE: GRADES 1-3

## Who, What, When, and Why ?

- ★ Stripe comes to school in a mischief-making mood. What does he do to make mischief?  
Do you ever like to clown around? Who in your class likes to clown around?
- ★ Why does Hunter follow Stripe's urges to cut up his paper frog? How does he feel after he cuts up his paper frog?
- ★ What does Mr. Ringtail say to Hunter after he cuts up his frog? What could he have said?
- ★ Hunter's mom says you don't have to go along with your best friend. What else does she say about what it means to be a best friend?
- ★ What does Hunter do to help Stripe be his best self?



## Look Closer

- ☆ What makes Hunter like Stripe?  
Is Stripe a bad friend for Hunter?
- ☆ Who is your best friend? Do you always go along with what he or she says?  
Do you like your best friend to go along with what you say or do?
- ☆ Do you worry that your friends might not like you if you don't go along with their suggestions?  
Is it hard not to go along with your friends, especially when it looks like fun?
- ☆ Are you more like Hunter or Stripe?  
Or a little bit of both?

## Souvenir

"Being a best friend doesn't mean always following along. Sometimes being a best friend means you have to help your friend be his best self."



## What I Noticed

I never thought that helping someone be his best self was part of friendship.

What did you notice?

## Quotes

"Actions speak louder than words."

—AMERICAN PROVERB

## Next

Check out these other titles:

*A Bargain for Frances*  
BY RUSSELL HOBAN

*Cardboard Piano*  
BY LYNNE RAE PERKINS

*Elvira*  
BY MARGARET SHANNON

*Iris and Walter*  
BY ELISSA HADEN GUEST

*Miss Bindergarten Has a Wild Day in Kindergarten*  
BY JOSEPH SLATE

*Timothy's Tales from Hilltop School*  
BY ROSEMARY WELLS