

## **Beyond Discouragement - Creativity** - Book reviews and comments :

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01-02-11

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A most excellent book. Not only are you a superb painter and writer, I now put you in the same league as Plato. Your book should be read by every parent worldwide. Well done. - TD, London UK

17-12-10

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Just finished your book and I have a thousand words for you but I have condensed it to one ""Bravo"" . Great job but a tough read. . . CB, Ottawa

14-12-10

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Add philosopher and psychologist to your many credits. Your book is frank, unpretentious, heartwarming, *plein d'aperçus profonds sur la vie et le voyage de découverte qui nous préoccupe à travers les générations*. A must-read for teachers and young parents... Bravo! - CP, Toronto

01-12-10

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Your marvellous book arrived. I dropped everything and started to read it and did not stop! It is so wise. Chapter after chapter, I said to myself "Yes, yes, yes!" I wish every household with children could have this book and every parent could learn from your wisdom.

It is so tragic to see young kids glued to the TV and to all the modern day gadgetry; seldom going outdoors, seldom reading.

Thank you for writing this book. I hope it will find many readers.

Catherine de Vinck

*Catherine de Vinck is a poet and theologian, a three time recipient of a Doctorate of Letters Honoris Causa (from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, St. Scholastica College, Duluth, MN and Regis College, Weston, MA.)*

*Catherine is the author of more than 13 books of poetry as well as "A Cantata for Peace" (music by Emma Lou Diemer) and A Passion Play (music by Gabrielle Snyder).*

23-11-10

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Bernard Poulin, internationally prominent artist, has written a compelling book, "Beyond Discouragement - Creativity." There are several levels to the book. Each level is valuable in its own right.

For artists, the book guides readers to a mindset where they can be courageous in their creativity, deal with failures as well as successes, and avoid the pitfall of discouragement when failures crop up, as they inevitably do.

For parents, the book helps them better understand their children's creative processes. Mr. Poulin reassures parents that their children are not fragile creatures who will be shattered, or whose creativity will be destroyed, when parents do their job as parents.

For educators, the book is a rigorous reexamination of much conventional wisdom about education and the creative process. The book's extensive bibliography makes it plain that the author has done his homework; he has thoroughly researched the subject, in addition to being a parent and mentor.

There is an additional level, which (to me) is the most important. Most books are like a wall. On one side of the wall is the author; on the other side is the reader, who is presented with "the book." In the case of Bernard Poulin's book, however, the wall is removed, and we actually meet him. Turning through the pages, we can imagine him, winking slyly to us as he makes a joke. We are invited into his painting studio, where we meet his children, as toddlers, playing on the floor while Dad paints. We meet the children being creative in their own improvised creative space - nothing more complicated than a bathroom tub, where they can play, make a mess, examine their own creativity without hesitation. We meet Bernard Poulin's remarkable wife, every bit as creative and caring as the husband. We meet the people who mentored the author at differing stages of his own life. Finally, we are invited to think of the people in our own lives who have mentored us. It is a powerful and enriching exercise.

Do yourself a favor: Check out "Beyond Discouragement - Creativity." It will provide ideas which will keep people thinking for years to come. Also, you will make a new friend, the author Bernard Poulin. - MM, San Francisco

15-11-10

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I was only able to read bits at a time. . . The content is definitely in your face. The only outcome of this book will be countless contentious discussions - and that (not easy answers) seems to be the goal. After an hour of reading I was quite angry. . . I headed for the piano to lay out a series of tonal bursts. That worked. . . The notion of encouragement and excellence - as opposed to the usual push for unattainable perfection - should be required reading . . . Wow! I hope we can offer our child this "best that we can be" concept. What courage it takes to publish such a book at this time. Bravo! - EP, Buckingham, Québec