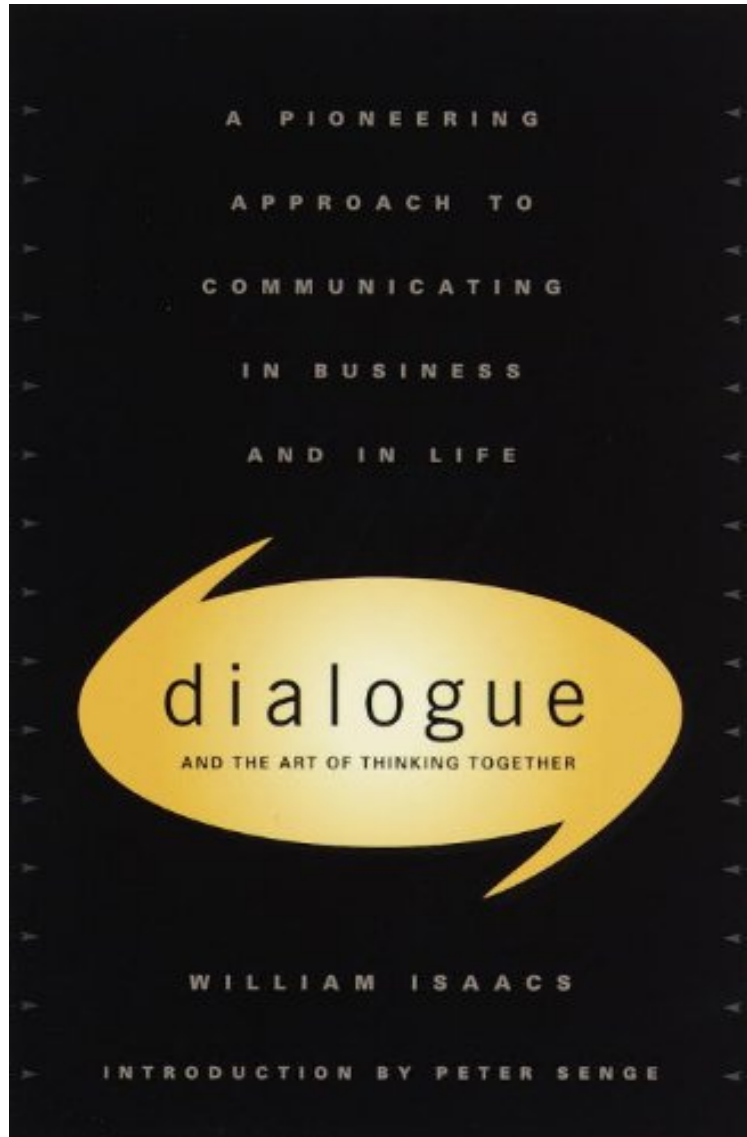


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Dialogue: The Art Of Thinking Together

William Isaacs

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William Isaacs : Dialogue: The Art Of Thinking Together before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dialogue: The Art Of Thinking Together:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read through the book first and highlight those sections that you'd like to revisit and you will be able to better ...By Moore2knowFirst let me say that this book isn't meant to be a fast read. There is little reason to believe that you can retain all the information in this book during the first reading. My suggestion would be to bring a highlighter, page tabs, and a dictionary so that you can truly understand all the terminology in the book. Read through the book first and highlight those sections that you'd like to revisit and you will

be able to better understand what is going on. All-in-all, a very fine book that uses examples and years of experience from an author that has made it his life goal to understand the true art of Dialogue. You can't go wrong with purchasing this book and it is made well enough that though I have gone back to it several times it is still holding up well. 18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Discover the Art of Thinking Together By J. Groen This is the most powerful book that I've read in years. The depth of understanding on how to create powerful, meaningful conversations at work, home and in all relationships is here. We are in a society and environment where things are moving so fast that we have lost the patience and trust for carrying on meaningful conversations. Instead we have ping pong ball conversations that barely get below the surface to deep, common insight. Then we try to solve the problem without having agreement of what the problem is. Read this book and understand this lost and important art of dialogue, the art of thinking together. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Clear and well written. By Marcia Flagg I have not finished the book so I am waiting for suggestions on how to utilize the concepts, but it is clear and well written. The basis for a true democracy is the sharing of ideas and looking for the best way to solve issues. We have truly lost that art in a society that likes to beat people into submission with the legal positions, economic positions etc. We have become bullies of ideas, not liberators for truth. Thinking together...what a concept.

Dialogue provides practical guidelines for one of the essential elements of true partnership--learning how to talk together in honest and effective ways. Reveals how problems between managers and employees, and between companies or divisions within a larger corporation, stem from an inability to conduct a successful dialogue.

.com Modern conversation is a lot like nuclear physics, argues William Isaacs. Lots of atoms zoom around, many of which just rush past each other. But others collide, creating friction. Even if our atomic conversations don't turn contentious, they often just serve to establish each participant's place in the cosmos. One guy shares a statistic he's privy to, another shares another fact, and on and on. Each person fires off a tidbit, pauses to reload while someone else talks, then fires off another. In *Dialogue and the Art of Thinking Together*, Isaacs explains how we can do better than that. Isaacs, who is Director of the Dialogue Project at MIT and a consultant to major corporations, including ATT and Intel, believes that corporate, political, and personal communication can be a process of thinking together--as opposed to thinking alone, and then trying to convince others of our positions by refusing to consider other opinions, withholding information, and ultimately getting angry and defensive. This is not pie-in-the-sky, let's-all-hold-hands-and-sing stuff. He offers concrete ideas for both listening and speaking; for avoiding the forces that undermine meaningful conversation; for changing the physical setting of the dialogue to change its quality. The outcome, he says, can be quite different from the traditional winner-loser structure of arguments and debates. Businesses can make more reasoned decisions, and thus earn more money. Governments can create peaceful resolutions to seemingly intractable problems. (For example, Isaacs cites secret conversations between Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk in South Africa, which occurred over a number of years, while Mandela was still under arrest and led to a new framework for their country.) And, although this is a book primarily geared toward managers, even married couples can learn a few new ways to communicate. --Lou Schuler From Booklist Isaacs is a colleague of organizational learning guru Peter Senge and one of the founders of MIT's Organizational Learning Center. He also directs MIT's Dialogue Project, on which this book is based. Isaacs argues that organizational learning cannot take place without successful dialogue. Dialogue is conversation that encourages collective observation and thought, enabling groups to think beyond their members' individual limitations. Isaacs posits an "ecology of thought," which is typically constrained by habits that are known and felt but never discussed. Those habits can be revealed only through dialogue that permits inquiry, confrontation, and clarification. Only then can habits be changed and new possibilities explored. Isaacs examines the processes that constitute dialogue and shows what encourages and what discourages dialogue, what happens when dialogue is introduced into difficult settings, and how to manage the changes within oneself that are necessary to become an effective participant in dialogue. David Rouse About the Author Isaacs is the director of the Dialogue Project at MIT and a lecturer at the Sloan School of Management. PETER M. SENGE is the founding chairperson of the Society for Organizational Learning and a senior lecturer at MIT. He is the co-author of "The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook, The Dance of Change," and "Schools That Learn "(part of the Fifth Discipline Fieldbook series)" "and has lectured extensively throughout the world. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.