

# THE CONVERSATION

## Supplement

September 2021



**The Conversation**  
Talking about Education



## Project re-launch

In the midst of the chaos and turbidity of last year The Conversation faltered. Aside from a few supplements, no full edition of The Conversation has been published for some time. Arguably there was no greater need for the aims of The Conversation project to be a regular part of our lives than the season of disruption, pressure and virtual relations. Yet it was not there, and for that I apologise. But a new school year, much like Spring brings new life, comes with new opportunities, new roles, new foci, new vision. And so, with a Spring like re-birthing, The Conversation re-emerges from the cold soil of the COVID winter.

## Dear One Absent This Long While

by Lisa Olstein

It has been so wet stones glaze in moss;  
everything blooms coldly.

I expect you. I thought one night it was you  
at the base of the drive, you at the foot of the stairs,

you in a shiver of light, but each time  
leaves in wind revealed themselves,

the retreating shadow of a fox, daybreak.  
We expect you, cat and I, bluebirds and I, the stove.

In May we dreamed of wreaths burning on bonfires  
over which young men and women leapt.

June efforts quietly.  
I've planted vegetables along each garden wall

so even if spring continues to disappoint  
we can say at least the lettuce loved the rain.

I have new gloves and a new hoe.  
I practice eulogies. He was a hawk

with white feathered legs. She had the quiet ribs  
of a salamander crossing the old pony post road.

Yours is the name the leaves chatter  
at the edge of the unrabbit woods.

At the heart of The Conversation project is an attempt to encourage and facilitate meaningful, authentic, relational experience. This is done through the following aims:

- To encourage more conversations between education professionals
- To increase incidents of serendipitous knowledge exchange
- To provide stimuli for conversations through the magazine
- To provide content that challenges, inspires and provokes
- To be a vehicle to carry content created by education professionals
- To provide a forum for conversation through the website & social media

The Conversation is a response to didactic modes of teacher development. It is a response to the commoditisation of CPD and an attempt to encourage authentic experiences for education professionals. It is a response to the frustration of modern and perpetual modes of relation and seeks to promote direct, unmediated communication between educators. When we assert our irreducible individuality, we call forward qualitative richness into our professional situations. It is an attempt to encourage the construction of situations; moments of life deliberately built for the purpose of reawakening and pursuing authentic desires and interests, experiencing the feeling of life and adventure, and the liberation of our everyday lives as educators.

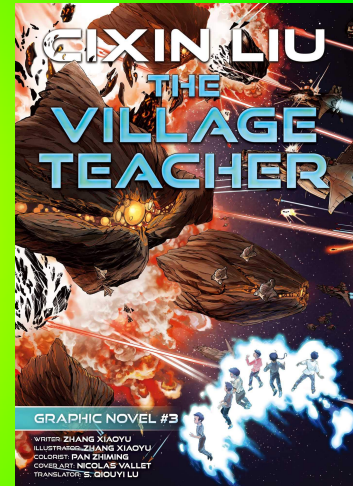
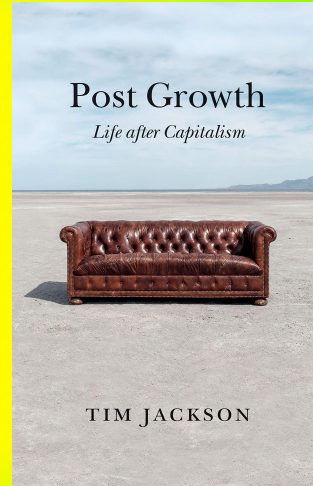
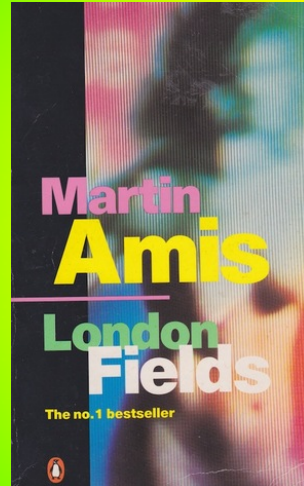
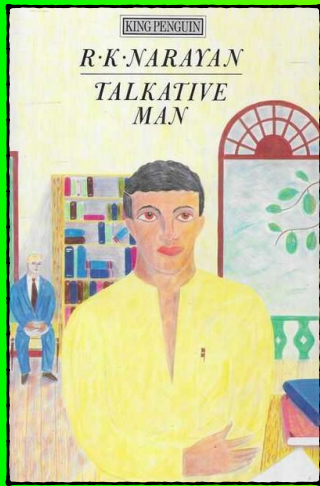
At The Conversation we believe that giving educators the space and time to talk about teaching and learning is essential. Conversations can generate ideas, inform pedagogies and inspire reform. A conversation implies a measure of equality and that listening and sharing without limit, without judgement, without inhibition can lead to incredible things. Conversations allow us to explore ideas, to challenge and ask questions of ourselves, each other and the systems we work in. They inspire us to create, analyse and evaluate ideas. They provoke us to engage intellectually with the latest research and make links between theories and praxes. Conversations can lift us, excite us and challenge us.

So now I would like to ask you to get involved, to join in the conversation. The project exists in many formats, all of which are only possible with your help. The magazine needs contributions, the podcast needs interlocutors, the YouTube channel needs content, the website needs a designer's touch, the twitter and instagram accounts need influence, the forum needs to be a space for the people; in other words, The Conversation needs you.

If you would be interested in joining The Conversation team and helping out in any way, please let me know, I would love to chat.



# The Conversation: Book Recommendations



## Art of the week

## "Mushrooms" Yayoi Kasuma (2005)



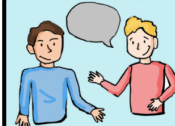
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The mycelial network, sub-soil domain, conceptualised as a vast microscopic web. A hidden ecosystem, an infinite number of roads leading everywhere, connecting everywhere. The intersection of this subterranean crypto world is the fruit, here shown brightly coloured as if to attract us, to warn us. These fruiting bodies, ripe and plump, visible nexus between light and dark, above ground and beneath. They act as crossing points, bridges between worlds, liminal, fleeting. Saprophytic death eaters bringing seasonal life to the forest floor, only, too often, to bring death to the life eaters.

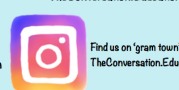
### **Cryptic Crossword C(s)OTW:**

Urge to use an iron (5)  
New part ordered somewhere in Belgium (4)  
Bognor extension? Test records keep here (8)

### The Conversation



www.theconversation.education



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YOU CAN PRESENT THE MATERIAL, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE ME CARE.

