

Monday, September 14

Dear Bob,

Do you realize that if you keep being marvelous and coming home every weekend I won't have anything to write letters about? I'll write them anyway, probably, but they'll be pretty stale. As you can tell by the wide-lined paper, I'm writing this in school — on corridor duty, which is too clapped up with "Where's your pass?" "You must have a pass." "Yes, even you." "Go back." and so forth, that I can see no point in trying to read The Greek Philosophers, which is about all I have with me to do. My schedule today is most unstimulating: World Lit. (fire drill), English 11 NR (air raid drill — how useless — also gave 1st prize, hardly anyone read assignment, as expected), free period (fire drill), corridor duty (now), lunch (find time to put paper on bulletin board because room is empty then), English 10 (library orientation — I just watch + listen for umpteenth time), study hall (fire drill or air raid this time?), English 10 (library again).

Do you remember our lending The 3 Clocks and The Wonderful O to John to keep him occupied

on the plane? He hasn't read it yet - but
Kevin picked it up and laughed aloud
through the whole thing. I told him
about The White Deer, too. If the 11 NR
and 10 classes feel right for it, I'd
love to do 13 Clocks or Wonderful O with
them later - probably in the spring -
but I'll have to know them much better -
it's such a delicate kind of humor in
some ways, but fun.

John told me about this - and said the
best statement his age summarizes Ireland.

Wednesday

Too busy for anything very exciting, funny, or interesting. We were too late to register for the Italian course - which may be just as well for both of us getting used to school pressures again.

I've just spend a free period looking up records for my World Lit. class. Only 8 had averages of 80 or above last year - 13 were 75 or below. The one prerequisite is supposed to be passing the regents. I have 2 who didn't even take it - but one of them especially

volunteers often, answers well, and is one of the few who has read and remembers all the assignments. According to his records, he has passed English 10+11 by 70's (sometimes pushed up to that). Do you think anyone will listen and believe if I use him to refute those who accuse me of being too hard and expecting the kids to be honor students?

I shouldn't complain (but that's ^{above} my grade pleasant surprise about one or two kids, anyway). It doesn't help either of us - and actually there are pleasant things as well - just harder to define.

Les's work - and it will continue until he has a car - I drove John to school, but this week Joan is away and he has her car and is driving me. It's rather pleasant to have companionship - though we both lose the afternoons talking, drinking tea (not every day, but most), etc.

We've decided - since they are free - to use films from the Central Library, especially for the NR's. They need variety and something to stimulate thought and discussion, and they and the Remedials often feel (with some justification) that they are the left-overs, that no one cares so

much about them and what they are taught as they care about Honors, regents, etc. I've been looking through the catalogue, and there are some very good things, including a parable in stick figures narrated by Dudley Moore about boundaries between countries, peace, enmities, etc. that I saw once on television. There are several T.V. specials, in fact — and the dates are given (for the making) so that you can tell if it's likely to be outdated (not that all old ones would be — but some would). It should be good, and a pleasant change for us, as well.

I think I'll end this now so that I can mail it when I get home. I'll try harder for a better letter soon.

Love,
Lars

I'm marking quizzes on "Beware of the Dog," the Gerald Dill story in the 10's book about a Spitfire pilot who bails out over the Channel + ends up in a German camp or hospital in France, though they try to make him believe it is Brighton. Several have told me he told only his name, rank, and cereal number. "That's even funnier this year after that report ranking cereals by

number. The paper I have just corrected also identifies a Junkers 88 as "a weapon" - something of an understatement - and says the character is ^{made} suspicious ~~of the~~ by the water he is washed with because it is "heavy" - I wonder if he saw Heroes of Telemark too? Maybe there is some hope for humorous answers this year.

I like my 2nd 10th grade classes very much so far.

The story is told from the point of view of the Piolet according to several students.