

Thursday, June 23

Dear Rob -

Help! I'm stuck in one room for 6 hours - I was assigned the conflict room from 11:00 until 2:00 - and told a student of mine to come in for a make-up exam about 8:45. He arrived at 7:50 - I took him down to the conflict room (where kids with 2 exams scheduled at the same time finish the second exam) since it would be free and quiet. It will take him the full time - and a conflict student has already been brought in (1 1/2 hours before she was supposed to, but the teacher had no other kids left in the exam room. I'll die of starvation - 2 cups of tea, juice, and 2 pieces of toast at 6:30 won't keep me until 2:00. I just hope my stomach doesn't rumble. That is sooo upsetting.

On an exam I am marking - from a free-style composition -

"My plans for the future is to become a mentally disturbed teacher."

I have just finished another essay by another 10th grader - a fairly bright but lazy girl - and I just hope she remains lazy. Her topic is "If I had my way" - and the points she includes are: all countries would be under the control of England with Queen Elizabeth as monarch of the world; cars would be outlawed and everyone would ride bicycles; all children would receive the same education, beginning at the age of four and finishing at seventeen - except that anyone who failed a subject at thirteen would have to drop out (she also says she would make learning fun!); "I would not abolish prejudice, because I do not believe that all men are created equal. White people will rule over blacks"; there would be only one religion - "I'm pretty sure that everyone can learn to believe in God the way I do." She concludes: "I am sure that my system will [note that will - simple future, not conditional] work. Nobody would oppose me, because the system is one that will make everyone happy. I would have peace throughout the world. There would be no

competition or hatred among countries. All people would learn to love this system because they will be so happy. And you will enjoy yourselves!!

Thank goodness! My kid and the first conflict finished by 10:30 - so I was able to eat lunch before my official conflict room duty began. I hope you appreciate these detailed reports of my activities.

I do wish you could see little Lois. I could - and should - take more pictures, but they aren't enough. She's at the noise-making stage - squeals, crows, brrr noises with her lips, and so forth - and a very happy baby. She loves to be held under the arms so she can jump up and down for as long as your arms can hold out.

One kid wrote that in The Pearl the pearlbuyers "thought the Indians were quite dumb." Another wrote of Raskolnikov, "he changed his mind about confusing to the police." (No - it isn't just poor handwriting - she wrote it that way 3 times clearly). Another described a group of people as "vocarious" - and neither voracious, vociferous, nor vicarious fits; I have a feeling it's like eggalebbien.

"After the murder he [Raskolnikov] becomes seriously ill with fever."

Saturday

Believe it or not, last night Mom + Dad + I went to the movies - The New Leaf with Shirley Matheson and Elaine May - it was light and absurdly funny - and a good complete break from school. Just Monday (report cards) and Tuesday morning (to turn in keys - planbook and pick up checks) left.

I went to RVC library yesterday to return a book - and picked up others to read, including one of 5 Galsworthy novellas that

contains Indian Summer of a Forsyte. I know
that fiction is losing status or whatever and
there are many people who proudly proclaim
that they never read fiction and that I really
should be reading important things - new
things - like Greening of America and so
forth - and maybe I will - later - but
I always need a "storybook," I'm afraid.
I think it's a combination of the "little world"
and a sense of continuity that I like. There's
a new Alfred Campion by Youngman Carter (the last -
he has died, too) from Keypod, too. And some
Elizabeth Goudge. Someday I'll have to send
you one of these - I don't know whether you'll
like it or not or if her appeal is
chiefly feminine - but I do like her for
a variety of reasons.

Mama and I are going off shopping now -
I'll try to write again soon.

Love and all sorts of stuff like that,
Lois