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Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, December 3, 1950

Linda Grace Hoyer

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December 3, 1950

Dear John:

The dogs left us last evening at six to return today at two thirty, thereby establishing a new record for absenteism.

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The Robeson Luther League is sponsoring a hayride next Saturday evening. Daddy says theride is for the benefit of the "future fathers of America." (To have a punster and a poonster in the family at once is really more than I deserve, deserving as I am.) I overheard Mr. Thomas Montag giving advice to one of the female Luther leaguers on what to wear. Or was it what not to wear? Tommy is beginning to annoy many folks almost as much as he did you two summers ago. He was elected to some minor office in the Sunday school and became so dynamic in the performance of his duties that your father (who is president of the S.S.A) had to make him the official welcomer. Five or six teachers had threatened to quit unless Tommy let them alone and Daddy thought up this ushering job for him during the following church service, otherwise there might have been a complete breakdown of religion in Plowville.

Cartoonists are a rare thing everywhere, John, and once in a while I wonder if you shouldn't have gone to art school after all. Your Johnny Harvard is cute as can be. Even Mr. Boyer likes him. He visited us on Saturday, having gone deer hunting and lost two of his sons some where in our neighborhood. Had we had our copy of the Lampoon we might have been able to impress the unimpressible Mr. Boyer. Oh well, you will bring them home during the holiday, won't you? And the Florida mag?

Spelling and typing seem to be hitting a new state of confusion today. Perhaps I had better dry the dishes at this point and hope the mail will be as late as it was on Saturday.

Mr. Freed is very pleased about your math grade and would like to hear from you. He has been feeling pretty sorry for himself, it seems, and thinks a letter from you might help. (The latter idea is my own.) Daddy simply said that Mr. Freed is very fond of you and wants to hear from you. But Mr. Freed has been feuding with Daddy about inadequate preparation for high school math and Mr. Kistler on general principles.

Well, we'll be seeing you the week after the next one. Choose your own day. I can't imagine anyone being too busy to come home at the earliest possible moment.. But you know Johnny Harvard better than I do. What set him to rioting? I think I'll tell Mr. Dillon you're on the Dean's list and trust the Campus notes editor to copy the news into the Times.

P and M