

23805 Offord  
Aldbourn, Trich.

September 29, 1962

Dear Louis,

Thanks for your letter; I'm glad you feel the poem is improved. Well, I can't get myself to give up those stanzas altogether, but as I noted in my letter before, I suspect they're not done well enough. The children I've tried them on (so far, children a bit older) haven't been shocked, but rather amused. But at the same time they weren't quite sure what was going on -- I imagine the best way in the world to make something frightening is to leave it half-said. Surely one of the aims of a poem is to say what is in the mind but forbidden, and I think just these problems do rise in children's minds and get shoved back where they can be dark and dangerous -- but you don't improve the situation any if you leave

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the things as obscure as it was. So I'll try to clarify -- that's what I did before and it took care of your earlier feeling that things were too grotesque.

I'm looking forward to the Festival at the end of October and will see you then, no doubt. I hope I'll have the poem done before that.

Best wishes,

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