

Yaddo

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Sept. 20, 1962

Dear Louis,

Well, here it is. This version is nine stanzas shorter and, I think, a good bit more imaginative. (Or, at least, it ought to be -- I've picked the brains of everyone I know!)

If it still needs shortening I'd like to suggest cutting stanza #16, the one that starts "What if I grow...." The only reason I kept it at all is that I got fond of the line about "I guess they'll be sorry then" which sounded familiar to me and which wouldn't seem to go into any other stanza. But I doubt if that's reason enough to hang onto that whole stanza.

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stanza), but that didn't seem to work well.

Finally, after you've read it through, is the last stanza on page 3 (stanza 29) clear? I could change "d'm good for me;" into "d'd eat myself;" but I'd rather dislike to. Perhaps I'd just better leave open an option to make a few changes -- esp. in those stanzas. OK?

Hope all is going well. I certainly envy your taking off toward Washington. It's cold and gray here in Saratoga and I keep foreseeing a dreadful winter in Detroit.

Look forward to seeing you at the Library's big October whing-ding. Let me know how you feel about the poem.

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