

Train for Aiken

Lower Dorth

Friday night

Dear Mrs Mitchell,

I tried to call you before I left for here but I didn't do it. I got tired of being tired and coughing like an a mature T.B. prospect. So I have taken my week off in January now. There is a Studies and Publications meeting I hate to miss on the fourth. But this trip was given to me now and it seemed important.

I am also having a writing revolt inside of me and want to get away from childrens writing and the telephone and NEW YORK CITY and myself in New York City. and write. It is as though the old directions were all over, and wherever I head in writing now it will be somewhere else. Not away from children, yet, but toward them differently.

I am terribly curious to get some idea of childrens response to Gertrude Steins manuscript. But I want to get that idea from children. Every grown up that reads the manuscript has such a different response. And to me her writing in this story is strong and real and sometimes exciting. I am trying to say Literature. And if I have any faith in that, I have a preconceived idea about this piece of writing. But I want to see what happens to children when they hear it or read it. If there is any way that such a kind of research, approached with a real attempt at objectivity, knowing the difficulties of deducing much if anything positive ---- could work into the Studies and Publications scheme, I would be more interested in doing it than anything else. It might work in to a book or an article, or a new way for me to find to write for them. It seems such a wonderful piece of writing to find out things with that nobody seems to know. Mary Phelps has a plan of writing I mapped out in the early part of the year as an orientation attempt.

The young book and the Indian Science I will finish. The Animal Shelter I'll finish just to finish. But I dont believe in it any more or in the kind of writing that it is.

My idea now is to sell it to the S.P.C.A. or Speyer Home, only in this sentence I am talking about another story no one has seen yet. I wrote a lot of funny things this fall in no direction that I could recognise. I doubt if they are for children. I suppose that is why I left them in the bottom right hand drawer of my desk. Either that or they were just plain typewriting on paper and not much more than a mere typing of words.

I have three books with me on the train on sentences and grammar and punctuation by Gertrude Stein in preparation to trying to find a way to make her writing simple for reading ---

either by punctuation or I hope by some other way that there might be to suggest to her. It is interesting by comparison with these, with her freer writing, what a disciplined piece of writing she has done in *The World is Round*. "and you could go on it around and around."

I will miss the Writers Laboratory on Wednesday.

Wishing you a happy New Year and a long enjoyment of the state of mind you caught in the east.

Sincerely,
Margaret Brown