

New York, February 15

Dear Stephen:

This is not an answer to your letter of February twelfth, but an attempt to have a serious discussion with you, as if we were face to face.

You are almost fifteen years old. Shortly you will (A)be up against the stiffest competition of your life when you apply for college entrance. No examiner is going to find himself favorably impressed by (B)"paralel" or "grammer" or "riserved" or similar errors. You will have to face the fact that in this world we succeed on our merits. If you do not pass the college entrance examinations simply because you are unable to spell, it will be nobody's fault but your own.

Every time you are in doubt about a word you are to look it up in the dictionary and memorize the spelling. (C)This is the least you can do to help yourself.

Love,
Father

Geneva, February 19

Dear Father:

I guess we do not understand each other at all. If you get a letter from me and there are only two or three mistakes well you just have to take my word for (D)it that I have had to look up practically every single word in the dictionary and that is one reason I hate having to write you these letters because they take so long and in the end they are not at all spontaneous, no, just wait a second, here it is, "spontaneous", and believe me (E)only two or three mistakes in a letter from me is one of the seven wonders of the world. (F)What I am saying is that I am doing the best I can as you would agree if you could see my dictionary which is falling apart and when you say I should memorize the spelling I can't because it doesn't make any sence to me and never did.

Love,
Stephen

New York, February 23

Dear Stephen:

(G)It is probably just as well that you have gotten everything off your chest. We all need to blow up (H)once in a while. It clears the air.

Please don't ever forget that I am aware that spelling is difficult for you. I know you are making a great effort and I am very proud of you.

I am enclosing a small check for your birthday.

Love,
Father
