

LIFE WITH MOTHER (but not much)

A Humorous Monolog

by
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Where am I going? Why, you know very well that I'm going to hear that speaker who is going to talk on, "Why Johnny Can't Read." Who is Johnny? How do I know who Johnny is? Probably some poor little boy the speaker knows who can't read. Why am I interested in Johnny? Well, somebody has to show an interest in the little fellow before it's too late. What do you mean, you can't read, either? Why, just tonight I heard you reading the directions on the labels of the canned beans I opened for supper, "Heat and serve"--I heard you read it just as nice! What do you want to read at twelve years old--"Midsummer Knight's Mare?" Your teacher says you're a poor reader? She must be mistaken. She probably has you mixed up with some other boy in the class. Classes are so large these days, teachers can't be expected to keep everyone straight. She says what? You're in a class by yourself! What are you doing there? Snobbery will get us nowhere! Yes, tell the teacher what I said. Just because I'm a community leader, I don't want my children treated extra special.

Why, yes, I suppose "Hobo" Muttsmuller's mother will be there. Why? Tell her "Hobo" carved his name on the new piano at school? Why, I certainly will do nothing of the kind! That woman has enough on her mind as president of PTA and chairperson of the steering committee that's studying the problem of juvenile delinquency. What's juvenile delinquency? Why, juvenile delinquency is children--swearing, stealing, fighting--and skipping school. What do you mean, you're a juvenile delinquent? You skipped school today! Where did you go? You stayed home? Why did you stay home? Because it was the one place you were sure you wouldn't run into me! What, may I ask, is your objection to me? Well, if I misunderstand, I'm sorry.

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