

22 November 1971

John Clare, Esq.,
The Times
Printing House Square
London, E.C. 4.

Dear John,

Your article in the Times is superb, so much so that I find it difficult to express myself. Your examination of each writer and his book was really finely done.

In your own words "none the less, a lot of people are trying" the most fantastic plaudit comes to you, because if the prize is important to books and to writers then what you have done is of great consequence to writing. It is also marvellous that you did persevere in spite of the enormous discouragement that you potentially got from more than one writer and absolute in ~~one~~ case!

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Having now spoken to you on the telephone, I very shamefacedly enclose the invitation for yourself and Sally Williams and look forward to seeing on Thursday.

Yours,