

January 19, 1962

Dear President Kennedy,

I am thirteen years old and I'm in the eighth grade. Please don't throw my letter away until you've read what I have to say. Would you please answer me this one question? When God created the world, He sent man out to make a living with the tools he provided them with. They had to make their living on their own with what little they had. If he had wanted us to orbit the earth, reach the moon, or live on any of the planets, I believe he would have put us up there himself or he would have given us missiles etc... to get there. While our country is spending billions of dollars on things we can get along without, many refugees and other people are starving or trying to make a decent living to support their families. I think it is all just a waste of time and money when talents could be put to better use in many ways, such as making our world a better place to live in. We don't really need space vehicles. I think our country should try to look out more for the welfare of its people so that we can be proud of the world we live in. At school they tell us that we study Science so that we can make our world a better place to live in. But I don't think we need outerspace travel to prove or further the development of this idea. Now that you have heard what I have to say, will you please write an answer to my question?

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Reitler