

345 Canon Drive
Santa Barbara
California

My dear Laura,

My good husband

and I have been enjoying your book
The Rio Grande which young Butner
gave us for Christmas. We both feel
privileged to have shared, somewhat
its growing pains and are delighted
to read the many favorable reviews
which echo our own though in more
elegant prose - We think it is well
and that author and illustrator
deserve equal praise. Being
familiar with so much of the

country & find myself shedding
nostalgic tears on every page which
means that I am having a wonder-
ful time.

Our move seems to have been
a wise one. Arthur is improving-
though very slowly. Unfortunately,
we managed to be here for one
of those "mummal" California
winters. at times we have thought
that we should have gone to New
York and joined young Arthur
who, by the way, is very busy
"encycling" for Pilliers and happy
in his apartment with his books,
records and guitar. However,
there are definite signs and
sounds of spring - & distin-
guished six different bird songs

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This morning besides the clatter
of the jay, sand woodpecker and
the hummingbirds are coming
back - so we can hope for
warmer weather.

Arthur joins in wishing
you the best of luck and con-
tinued success in your work.

Most cordially yours
Alan Mercer