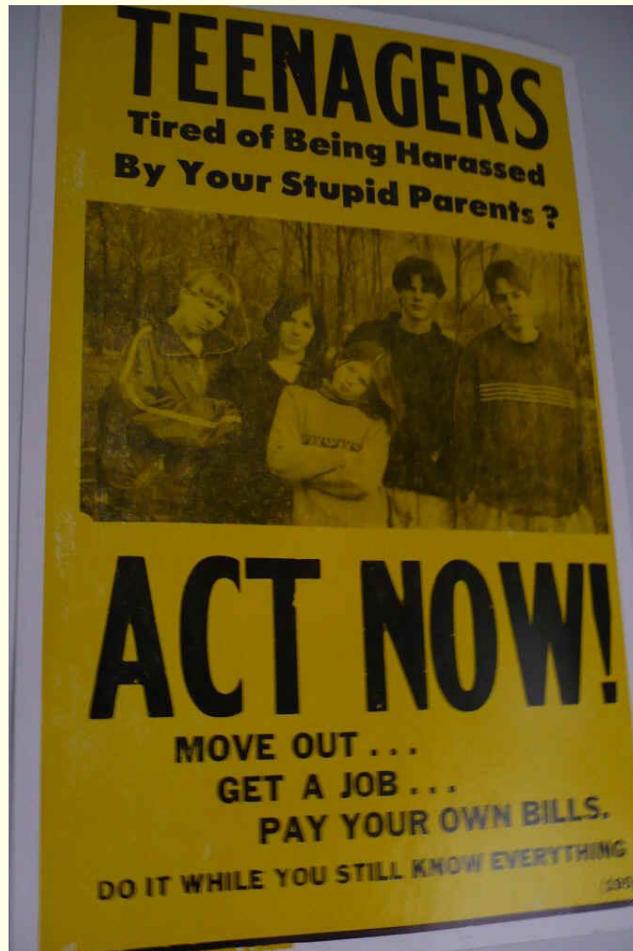


Great for hanging on your kids' door... right next to the "Keep Out" sign



**What does the Grade Mean:
A Matter of Perspective**

Dear Mom and Dad,

Since I left for college I have been remiss in writing and I am sorry...I will bring you up to date now, but before you read on, please sit down. You are not to read any further unless you are sitting down, OK?

Well then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and concussion I got when I jumped out the window when the dormitory caught fire shortly after my arrival here is pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital, and I can see almost normally, and I only get those sick headaches once a day. Fortunately, my jump was witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near the dorm. He was the one who called the ambulance and the fire department. He also visited me in the hospital, and since I had nowhere to live because of the burnt out dormitory, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment. It's really a basement room, but it's kind of cute. He is a very fine boy, and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning to get married. We haven't got the exact date yet, but I promise it will be before my pregnancy begins to show.

I know you will welcome him into our family with open arms. He is very kind, and although not well educated, is ambitious. Even though he is of a different race and religion than ours, I know that your often expressed tolerance will not permit you to be bothered by that.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you there was no dormitory fire, I did not have a concussion or skull fracture, I was not in the hospital, I am not pregnant, I am not engaged, and there is no boyfriend in my life.

However, I am getting a D in history and F in Science, and I want you to see those marks in their proper perspective.

Your loving daughter,