

PARODY



John Updike

(1932-2009)

Miss Moore at Assembly (1993)

*Based upon an Item in the New York Times
describing Marianne Moore's lecture appearance
before the students of a Brooklyn high school*

A 'chattering, gum-snapping audience'
held rapt by poetess, hat
tricorn, 'gigantic white orchid
fluttering at her shoulder'--that
suffices, in mid-
century, to tax one's fittingness's sense.

But why?... Birds heard Francis. Who else would come
to Eastern District High School
('slum,' 'bubble-gum-snapping') and stand--
tobacco-eschewer but Bol-
lingen Prize-winner--and
say, 'I've always wanted to play a snare drum'?