

# Old Dog

by RV Staff Writer J.C.

With great big brown eyes  
And a heart pure and true,  
She wagged her long tail,  
While she looked at you.

Let's go for a walk,  
She tried to say.  
But you stared at your phone,  
And the dog went away.

She brought you a toy,  
Trying to get you to play.  
But you turned on the TV;  
"I've had a long day."

Hoping for a cuddle,  
She jumped on your chair.  
But you pushed her off,  
Saying, "Get down from there."

She tried again.  
Let's play ball at the park!  
But you ignored her plea  
And said, "Shh, don't bark."

The dog left the room  
To take a nap in the sun  
And dreamt of the days  
When you both had such fun.

You squealed with joy  
When she arrived, just a pup.  
You said you'd love her forever,  
But is that time up?

You made a promise  
To your furry friend  
To care for her always,

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From the start to the end.

Go find her now,  
Kiss her sweet, furry head,  
And play together awhile  
Before it's time for bed.

**Questions**

1. What are two of the ways the dog tries to communicate?
2. What is the rhyme scheme of the first stanza?
3. What was the promise that the owner made?
4. How does this poem make you feel, and why?

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**Vocabulary List**

Each of the vocabulary words below are used in the reading passage. As you read the passage, pay attention to context clues that suggest the word's meaning.

1. stare
2. cuddle
3. promise
4. plea
5. squeal

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**Context Clues**

Using context clues from the sentences in the passage, underline the correct meaning of the word in boldface.

1) "But you **stared** at your phone and the dog went away."

a. played games    b. focused your eyes    c. glanced at briefly    d. blinked your eyes

2) "Hoping for a **cuddle**, she jumped on your chair."

a. a new toy    b. a special treat    c. a kind word    d. a close touch, snuggle, or hug

3) "You made a **promise** to your furry friend."

a. a commitment    b. a doghouse    c. a health report    d. a suggestion

4) "But you ignored her **plea** and said, "Shh, don't bark."

a. her loud noises    b. her apology    c. her request for help    d. her repetitive actions

5) "You **squealed** with joy when she arrived, just a pup."

a. danced    b. jumped    c. clapped your hands    d. made a high-pitched noise