

Grade 10
Fiction _____
Poetry _____
Nonfiction ✓

A Forever Friend



She was the best friend I've ever had. I can never forget her. I remember, that when I was little, I used to make beds on the floor, because she wasn't allowed on the couch. I would sleep on the floor with her. I would cover her in blankets, and pick some silly movie. She's been with me for as long as I can remember. I can still imagine scratching her soft, tan colored ears. I remember that whenever I would cry, she would lick my hand, and ask me for my attention. I remember going to the lake, or the mountains, or sand dunes, and just playing. I remember throwing her toy as far as I could, and she brought it right back, bouncing in excitement. I remember how expressive her face could get, if I told her to "Say cheese," she would smile, and let me get a picture. I have so many. I remember when my grandpa would come to visit, she would be almost inseparable from him, she would bounce up to him with whatever she had chosen as a toy, either a stick, or a coffee can, or once in awhile she would find a tennis ball. They would play fetch for hours, sometimes even so long that she was sore the next day.

I loved her. More than anything in the world. She was my best friend. She was *always* there for me. We had been together since I was a year old.

I will never forget how as the years went by, I almost forgot she was there. I hardly ever gave her any attention, aside from a few ear scratches here and there. I will never forget the crushing guilt that I get every time I think about the end, when I think about how I ignored her for years. I only gave her anything when I wanted her to cheer me up. I will never forget how selfish I was, I wanted more than anything to keep her with me. I will never forget how she stayed by my side, even though I was no longer by hers. She would curl up to me and lick my face if I was upset, and I would hug her, crying into her soft fur. I still would sleep on the floor with her once in a while, and would sometimes still show my love. I guess I just never thought I could lose her, I had never thought about how things would be without her. I never had any reason too. It never crossed my mind.

She was so scared.

I could see in her eyes as we were walking into the room. She could tell something was different. The doctor had her lie down on the floor and then she gave her a shot, so she would fall asleep. I laid on the floor next to her and hugged her. She was shaking, but slowly her body relaxed and I heard her heavy breathing slow, and become deeper, until it was just a soft snore. The doctor came back in, and the words '*I'm sorry*' repeated in my mind, again and again.