

Sparky's Walk by Rick Arruzza

Sparky hears the leash jingle,
the basement door opens,
It must be the time
for which she's been hoping.

She's waited all night
while her family talks,
But finally it's time
for dear Sparky's walk.

Down the stairs she bounds
on excited feet,
Into the dark, cool night,
Who will Sparky meet?

She strains at the leash,
sniffing the air and the ground,
For hints of all things
that may be found.

Sparky crosses the street,
looking both ways,
Toward the back of the school,
where she usually plays.

Bats fly overhead,
but she pays them no mind,
Not when raccoons and rabbits
are out there to find.

Looking for raccoons,
following her nose,
Near the edge of the field,
where the raspberries grow.

The smells tell Sparky
the raccoons were just here,
She knows the whole family
lives right over there.

Sparky walks fast,
around the school she goes,
Where a brown rabbit scampers,
twitching its nose.

Sparky's ears perk up,
she stops to listen,
But the rabbit runs quickly,
under a moon that glistens.

Sparky crosses the street,
the last time today,
Three spots on one ear,
she's unique in that way.

She trots down the road,
looking this way and that,
This is the street,
the street of the cats.

Two white ones, three black ones,
and one with some stripes,
And then there's old Victor,
who's never run from a fight.

He walks slowly,
while the other cats scatter,
Sparky's coming, but for Victor
it does not matter.

Sparky barks loudly,
Bark, bark, ruff, ruff,
Victor then hisses,
he's just too tough.

Sparky backs off
and leaves Victor alone,
She moves down the street,
heading for home.

Past the man on the corner,
standing outside,
Sparky wags her tail,
she's saying hi.

Down toward Heidi,
who barks a greeting,
Sparky looks forward
to this nightly meeting.

She's now on her street,
up the hill Sparky runs,
There are many friends here,
she always has fun.

Past Maya and Otto,
and a dog named Barkley,
Past Andy, then Mark,
who calls her Sparkly.

There's also Macy,
whose age is near 10,
And don't forget Max,
her secret boyfriend.

Sparky's now home,
she's finally back,
Scampering up the stairs
for a bedtime snack.

Another day done,
Sparky crawls into bed,
She snuggles in her blanket
and lays down her head.

She'll wake once again
at dawn's first light,
Sleep tight, sweet Sparky,
have a very good night.