

Once Around the Lake

An Early Reader Picture Book Sample by Susan W. Golder

See Odie was a boy who, when it was late,
liked to draw and write to remember each date.
He'd lie in his room . . . he'd wonder and think . . .
then, by flashlight, he'd write with hardly a blink.

Sometimes, his busy mind bubbled with stuff
till he'd fill up the pages and sigh, "Enough."
Then, colorful dreams that were happy and fun
in the calm and the quiet of Odie's night spun.

At the end of the bed lay his puppy dog, Max,
tangled in toys and unable to relax!
At Odie's first stretch, he leaped and he hopped.
This faithful friend, Max, he never forgot.
A dog on a mission knows just what to do.
"Wake up, Odie. It's time to canoe!"

Though Odie might wish he could stay in his bed,
Max brought his leash to be sure he'd be led.
"Time's a wasting!" the wags in his tail suggested.
"Tonight, not today, is your turn to be resting!"

With a yawn and a stretch, and a nod that was slow,
Odie tossed and he turned, then got ready to go.
"I can count on my Max," he jotted in a fog,
"to make sure I don't live like a bump on a log."

