I am the Dog, I am the Cat

By, Donald Hall and Barry Moser

Dog: I am the dog.

 I like bones.

 I like to *bury* bones.

 As for eating, I can take it or leave it-

 but I like it when *they* feed me.

Cat: I am the cat.

 I don’t care whether they feed me or not

 as long as I get fed.

 Sometimes I tease them to feed me,

 Then turn up my nose at what I get.

Dog: Making the acquaintance of babies,

 I allow them to pull my hair.

 I do not like it,

 but I allow it, for

 I am the dog.

Cat: When babies come into the house,

 I try to *vanish.*

 Babies are crazy!

 Babies *sit* on you!

Dog: I am brave as I bark

 to frighten the burglar

 disguised as a UPS man,

 or the kidnapper who pretends to be a bicyclist

 wanting a drink of water.

Cat: Strangers are just fine

 If I feel like a lap, I feel like a lap.

 Why should I care what they feel like?

Dog: I sleep all day in order to stay rested,

 in order to be alert

 when it is my duty to bark.

DOG: After I sleep all day,

 I sleep all night, for

 I am the dog.

Cat: Cats work hard.

 When people and dogs are asleep,

 I never stop hunting mice.

 In the absence of mice,

 I hunt pieces of paper, paper clips, or rubber bands.

Dog: When I swim in the pond,

 I bark at minnows.

 Then I shake water on you, for

 I am the dog.

Cat: I keep myself clean.

 What if the president dropped by?

Cat: Dogs are nervous and well-meaning.

 It is well-known that cats

 are at the same time

 independent,

 selfish,

 fearless,

 beautiful,

 cuddly,

 scratchy,

 and intelligent

DOG: Cats just don’t care.

 Only a dog

 is at the same time

 dignified,

 guilty,

 sprightly,

 obedient,

 friendly,

 vigilant,

 and soulful.