

Poem for Guided Practice

Wanting to Be Needed

She sits beside the wheelchair
like any other dog—
waiting for a pat or a treat—
but she is not any other dog.

Head up, eyes bright,
aware of everything
that moves or makes a sound around
the girl in the chair,
she knows things other dogs don't,
can do things other dogs can't—
pull the wheelchair,
pick up dropped items,
turn on lights,
calm her mistress when she's upset.

This is her life,
what she lives for,
what she is trained to do.
Head up, eyes bright,
she sits beside the wheelchair,
wanting to be needed.