

August 28

(beginning phrase)

Ever since I could talk, I have always loved animals and babies. **When I was around 4 or**

(beginning phrase)

5 years old, my dog had 11 puppies in one litter. I would often take naps with them. They

(beginning phrase)

were the sweetest things. **When I got older,** I had two beagles named Lucy and Lady who

(beginning phrase)

also had puppies. **When I was around 10 or 11,** I was often told that there's something

special about me when it comes to animals and babies. They say animals and babies

usually seem to like me better than others. I talked to my mom about it and she said,

"They can sense that you like them. They can tell you have a good heart."

(beginning phrase)

After that, every time I was around animals or babies I would pay attention to how they

acted around me compared to others. "They're right," I thought. I don't know how I never

noticed before. My family and friends say it's a gift, and they are absolutely right. Lots of

my friends have dogs, and even their dogs love me. I love dogs the most though because

(beginning phrase)

they're so sweet! I have 4 dogs of my own. We have a big back yard. **Out there in the**

yard, they love running and playing.

—Alyssa Rico
Grade 8