



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## A Strange Dream

---

This is the story of a strange dream. The dream happened quite a while ago. It puzzled the man who dreamed it which was my friend, and it may puzzle you. The man's name was Colonel Parker. He lived in a large house by himself. His only companion had been a dog named Laddie, but the dog had died a few years ago, and the Colonel was lonely.

On the night of his dream, the ground was covered with snow because it was snowing. Colonel Parker could not fall asleep, so he went down to the living room in his robe and slippers. He built a fire in the fireplace. Then, he sat down in a comfortable chair in front of the fire. This chair was the place that his dog Laddie had liked the best. That night the Colonel was not thinking about the dog. Soon, the Colonel fell asleep. He began to dream that Laddie was there with him. The dog touched the Colonel's knee, first with his nose and then with his paw.

This was how the dog had told his master that he wanted to go out. When he thought about it later, the Colonel could not remember if he had put on his hat and coat in the dream. He only remembered that he got the dog's leash. Then, the two of them went out into the snowy garden together. The Colonel turned Laddie loose. The dog ran down the steps and across the garden. The Colonel walked behind him while the dog rubbed his nose in the fresh snow. Then, the two returned to the house. Once more the Colonel sat down in his chair. Then, he dreamed that he fell asleep again.

A short time later, Colonel Parker woke up. He felt cold. The fire had gone out, and the door to the living room was wide open. This was not as he had left it. The Colonel reached for his slippers. To his surprise, he noticed that they were wet. He hurried to the front door. The floor in front of it was wet, too. Then, he opened the door and looked out. In the fresh snow, he saw a man's footprints. They ran down the garden and back again. This was surprising, but then the Colonel saw something even more surprising. Next to the man's footprints were the footprints of a dog.

The Colonel wrote me a letter about his dream. He said, "I could not get over this. It seemed so strange. What do you think?" I thought that perhaps the Colonel might have been sleepwalking. Neither one of us can explain the dog's footprints. Maybe we never will be able to explain the footprints.