The Well-Worn Path

by David Crawley

You scampered down this well-worn path
when you were just a pup.
And as we grew, I ran with you.
I struggled to keep up.

My legs grew long. Your legs grew slow.
You’re happy now to walk,
ignoring all those squirrels and birds
you once would chase and stalk.

And as we walk I think of all
the moments that we shared.
The day we found you at the pound,¹
you looked so small and scared.

The times I fed you table scraps
in spite of Mother’s rule.

The days you greeted me with joy
when I came home from school.

And as we walk this well-worn path,
no longer running free,
I hope I was as good to you
as you have been to me.

¹A pound is a place for keeping stray animals.
1. Read line 4 from the poem.

I struggled to keep up.

The poet includes this line most likely to show that the dog —

A. ran faster than the speaker
B. was lost
C. looked larger than the speaker
D. was tired

2. What is the main message in the poem?

A. It is important for owners to train their pets.
B. It is difficult to care for some pets.
C. Dogs and people are very different.
D. Pets and their owners can make each other happy.
3 Lines 11 through 16 are included in the poem because they —

A list reasons why the speaker chose the dog
B give examples of experiences shared by the speaker and the dog
C explain why the dog began to ignore squirrels
D tell why the speaker and the dog no longer run together

4 Which word best describes the feeling that the poet creates in this poem?

A Thankfulness
B Surprise
C Confusion
D Unhappiness

5 What is the speaker doing in the poem?

A Picking up the dog at the pound
B Feeding the dog dinner
C Chasing after the dog as it runs
D Taking the dog for a walk
6  Lines 5 through 8 are important to the poem because they show that the dog —
   A  dislikes squirrels and birds
   B  wants the speaker to slow down
   C  is getting older
   D  is ignoring the speaker

7  The poet titled this poem “The Well-Worn Path” most likely because —
   A  the poem describes the way the path looks after many years
   B  the dog and the speaker have walked on the same path for many years
   C  the dog gets tired when it goes for walks
   D  the poem describes the place where the speaker found her dog