***“Dog's Death” by John Updike***

**She must have been kicked unseen or brushed by a car.**
**Too young to know much, she was beginning to learn**
**To use the newspapers spread on the kitchen floor**
**And to win, wetting there, the words, "Good dog!**
**Good dog!"**

**We thought her shy malaise was a shot reaction.**
**The autopsy disclosed a rupture in her liver.**
**As we teased her with play, blood was filling her skin**
**And her heart was learning to lie down forever.**

**Monday morning, as the children were noisily fed**
**And sent to school, she crawled beneath the youngest's bed.**
**We found her twisted and limp but still alive.**
**In the car to the vet's, on my lap, she tried**

**To bite my hand and died. I stroked her warm fur**
**And my wife called in a voice imperious with tears.**
**Though surrounded by love that would have upheld her,**
**Nevertheless she sank and, stiffening, disappeared.**

**Back home, we found that in the night her frame,**
**Drawing near to dissolution, had endured the shame**
**Of diarrhea and had dragged across the floor**
**To a newspaper carelessly left there.** Good dog**.**

Write a poem about any serious moment in your life. Something that has impacted you, that you remember clearly. The tone should be serious and thoughtful.