



# Lucy Loo Look & Listen

by Margaret Sullivan



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*To my fantastic kids who keep me moving and learning  
I love you!*

Lucy is a puppy and still learning how to be a good sheepdog. She is full of energy and loves to play and chase and run. She lives with her mother and the Sullivans on a huge farm.

Lucy's mom was always stopping and listening to make sure the animals were safe. She kept watch over the farm by looking and listening, not by running all about. Lucy's mom had a little knoll that she would sit atop for hours each day just watching the farm and all the animals. Every once in a while she would dash off to chase the chickens back to their yard or lead a lost sheep back to the flock.



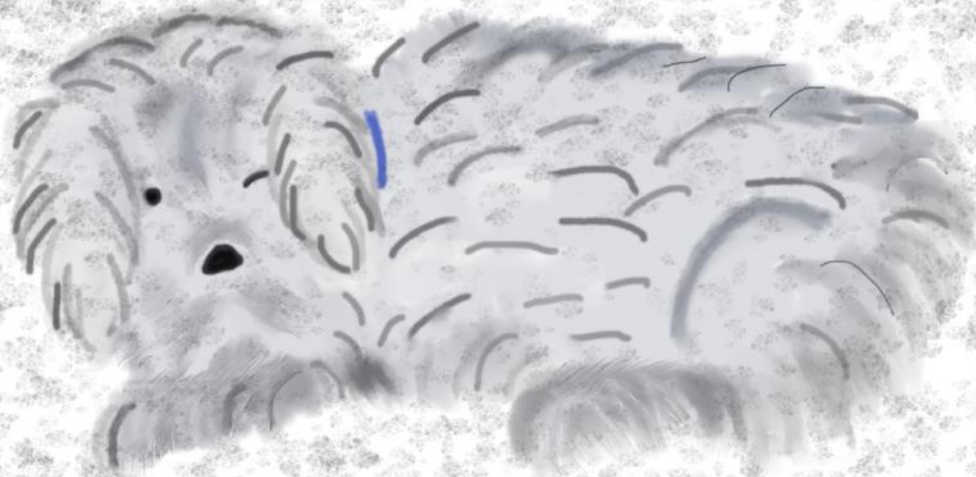
Lucy seldom stops moving. Her mother kept telling her “A good sheepdog must look and listen. You are missing out Lucy. There is so much to see and hear.”

“I am not missing anything at all. I run over here and I run over there. I see it all. I know what everyone is up to and where everyone is,” Lucy said to her mother.

That evening Lucy missed dinner because she didn’t hear the dinner bell. Lucy told her mother she *did* hear the bell but she wasn’t hungry so she kept running. Lucy’s mother looked at her suspiciously and could have sworn she heard Lucy’s tummy rumble.

That night Lucy snuck from her cozy bed to see if there was any food left near her bowl. To her surprise her bowl was untouched and full of food. As quietly as she could, Lucy gobbled up her dinner while her mother slept close by.





Lucy sometimes pretended she was her mother and would run and nudge Abigail, the Sullivan's daughter, this way and that. Abigail loved Lucy and would laugh and laugh. Lucy loved Abigail too, especially after she ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Lucy loved to help Abigail get all cleaned up after lunch – YUM!

Lucy was convinced that sitting in one place and looking and listening was *no* way to keep watch over the farm. So Lucy kept running. She ran here and there and stopped only now and then to make sure she didn't miss the dinner bell.





One day Lucy went with her mom on an adventure into town. Lucy had never been to town or even off the farm so she was very excited. Lucy ran in huge circles as they headed for the woods. Lucy's mom was wise and experienced and knew all there was to know about being a good sheepdog and looking out for her family. "Lucy Loo" her mom would call in a sing-song voice. Lucy ran ahead.

Lucy bounded full of excitement into the woods. She skidded up to a stream and took a drink. As her mom approached the stream she said "Lucy Loo, look & listen. What do you see? What do you hear?" Lucy stopped and looked and listened as best she could. At first, all Lucy heard was her own heart beating fast after running through the woods.



Then Lucy saw the fish swimming in the stream that she hadn't noticed before and could hear the water running downstream and crashing into a pond. Lucy could hear the wind in the trees and see the sun casting shadows through the woods. She noticed a huge pine tree at the edge of the forest where they had come from the farm. Lucy liked the calm of looking and listening but soon the calm was gone and she went back to running ahead.





Lucy and her mother then came to a huge meadow. Lucy bounded into the meadow and ran in big circles. Her mother said again “Lucy Loo, look and listen. What do you see? What do you hear?” Lucy stopped running and looked and listened as best she could. Lucy saw the tall grass swaying in the breeze. She heard the birds singing in the trees. Lucy saw two apple trees at the edge of the forest where they had just come from and could still hear the stream that led to the pond. She noticed some ants working hard and even heard the slithering of a snake in the grass. Again, Lucy liked the calm of looking and listening but it went away quickly and she went back to running.



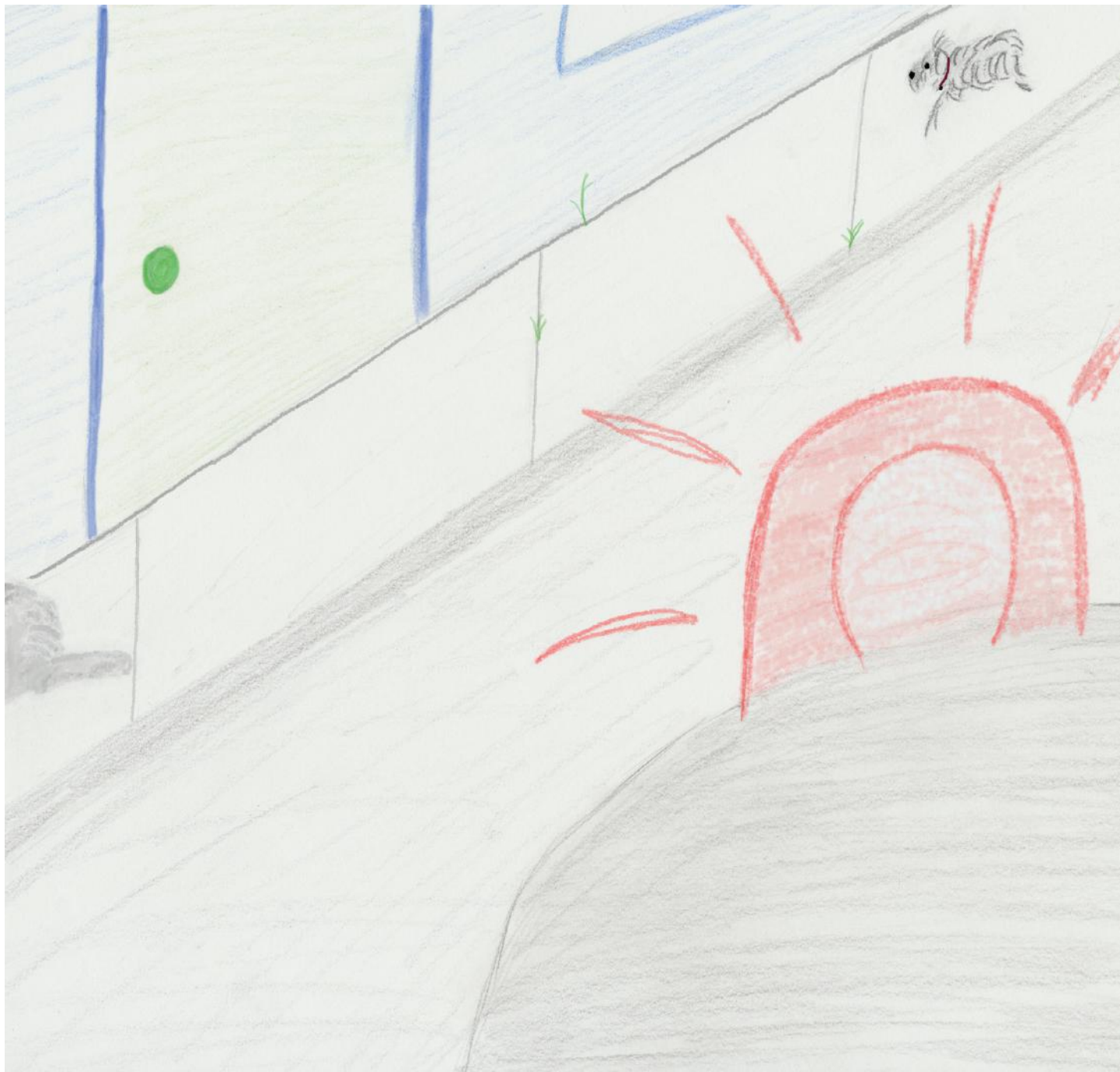


They made their way through the field and into town. It was a busy little town and Lucy didn't know her way around. Lucy was a bit frightened until her mother said "Lucy Loo, look and listen. What do you see? What do you hear?" Lucy stopped and looked and listened as best she could. Lucy saw the cars rushing here and there; she heard people walking down the street talking and laughing; she saw other dogs lounging outside stores waiting for their owners and she heard children playing at the school nearby. Lucy peaked in one of the stores and could smell the sweetness of bread being baked.



Then Lucy and her mother heard the fire truck and its sirens. People were yelling and running to their cars to follow the fire truck.

Lucy heard someone say, "I think it's at the Sullivan's place." *The Sullivan's? Oh no,* thought Lucy. Lucy's mother was watching the fire truck and did not hear the person's comment. Lucy ran to her mother and said the fire truck was headed back to the Sullivan's farm, their farm! Lucy and her mother started running back home. Lucy was not as fast as her mother and was soon left behind.



Lucy got to the open field but wasn't sure which way to go. She took a deep breath and calmed herself so she could think. She looked around and could see where her mother had run through the grass because it was trampled down. Then Lucy remembered when she looked and listened, she had seen a pair of apple trees near the forest's edge where they had come from the woods. Lucy saw the trees and ran on ahead.



Once in the woods, Lucy again was not sure where to go. Then she remembered the stream and the fish. She could hear the stream and headed toward the sound. Then from the stream, she looked around to figure out which way they had come. She remembered the huge pine tree at the edge of the woods. Lucy looked and saw the huge pine tree near the entrance to the woods where they had come from the farm. Lucy ran full speed toward the pine tree. When she came out of the woods, all she could see was smoke and all she could hear were firemen yelling.





Lucy didn't know what to do next. Then, she could hear her mom's words from earlier that day "Lucy Loo look and listen"; she looked and listened as best she could. Lucy could hear Abigail coughing. Lucy looked all around but couldn't see Abigail. She listened some more and figured out that the coughing was coming from inside the house. *Oh dear!* thought Lucy *Abigail is in the house!* Lucy ran to the house and up the front steps, she pushed the door open with her front paws and ran into the house. She was going so fast that she slid across the slick floor. Lucy could hear the coughing but she couldn't see through the smoke. Lucy got down low on her belly and tried to take a breath. A faint smell of peanut butter met Lucy's nose. Abigail!



Lucy moved toward the smell and the coughing got louder. Finally, she could see Abigail in the corner of the kitchen. Lucy ran to Abigail and nudged her with her nose. Lucy started to leave hoping Abigail would follow but she just sat there coughing. Then Lucy got behind Abigail and started pushing her with her nose like she saw her mother do to baby sheep, then moved to her side and pulled at her dress.





Abigail finally followed her out of the kitchen on her hands and knees like a little puppy. Once out of the house, Lucy nudged Abigail down the front steps and out of the smoke to her waiting family. Abigail was crying now and hugged her mother and wouldn't let go.

Lucy, you saved our Abigail!" the mother yelled. Lucy licked the mother and ran in circles around her and Abigail. She barked and barked; she was so happy.



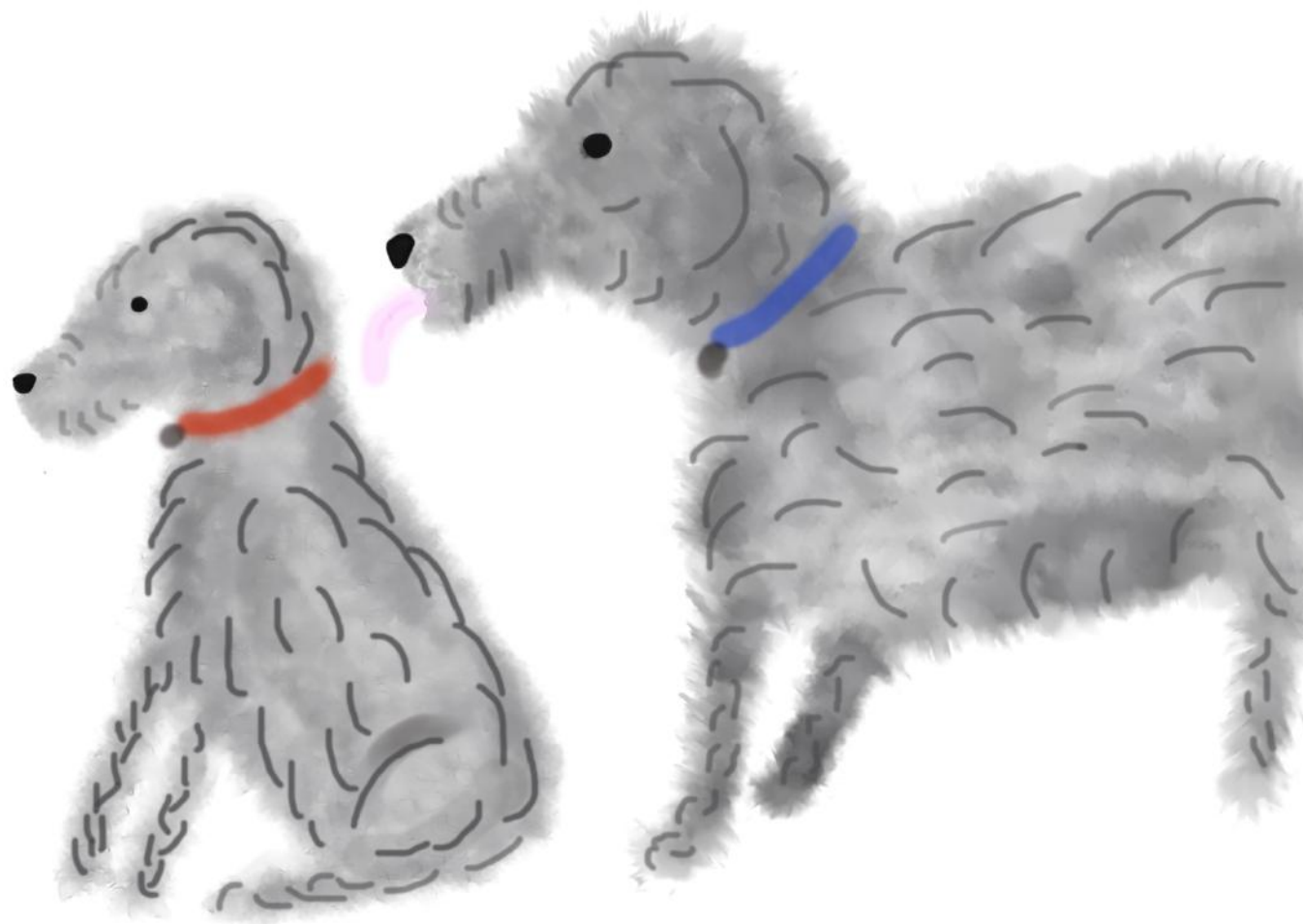


That night when the fire was out and the family was settled at the neighbors, Lucy and her mom slept in the barn to keep watch over all the animals. Lucy's mom was licking her and cleaning some soot from her fur. "I am so proud of you Lucy. You did so well saving Abigail."

"All I did was what you told me, Mom," Lucy said.

Her mom looked at her puzzled. "I looked and listened," Lucy said. Her mom wagged her tail.

It had been a long day and all the animals were exhausted from the excitement of the fire. As they all settled down to sleep, Lucy's mom asked if she was going to sleep now. "Not just yet," said Lucy. Lucy sat very still and let the night surround her. She sat, she looked and she listened. She liked the calm of looking and listening, especially at night. When she was sure that all the animals were safe and sound, Lucy settled down to sleep.





Lucy is a busy sheepdog pup. She rarely stops moving until an adventure with her mom helps her to slow down, look, listen and save the day.

