

THE DANCE

It's always the same at the start:
Beginners, when first taking hold
ignore the forewarning when told
that handling a leash is an art.

They don't know a thing, but they will,
when three escapes later they've learned
how easy it is to get burned,
and working a leash is a skill.

It's true the right touch is unique
that keeps a line slack but not loose
with neither a knot nor a noose
to prove a good handler's technique.

With practice they'll both have the chance
to learn about moves that they lack.
Together they'll master the knack
of partners who know how to dance.

When both dog and master get smart,
and each of them plays out his part
responding to cues from the heart
the dance of the leash becomes art.

by Lee Netzler