Analysis of a "6" level Original Composition (Personal Narrative)

Prompt: "Forming meaningful connections can enrich lives"

It was about mid-afternoon. The couch upon which I sat was still bathed in sunlight from the large window. Cautious as not to disturb her, I moved my arms out of the way as my mom placed our increasingly weak dog down upon my lap. I'm not really sure why I was nervous. It was just Jessie, the same dog I'd been living with in relative peace for the last ten or so years. Then again, the relationship between Jessie and I hadn't exactly been free of conflict. I'd never liked Jessie and she'd never liked me. One of my first memories of her involves me lying on the floor, face to face with the white, shaggy creature, teasing her until she eventually bit me right on the lip. I still have that scar. I remember her always barking at each and every car that drove by our house, prompting me to yell at her to shut up, prompting my mom to yell at me to stop yelling at the dog to shut up, prompting even more barking.

I don't remember much about Jessie. She was one of the first pets of ours that I have some recollection of, but it's foggy. We'd already made our silent pact to ignore one another long before my earliest memories. The cats and I would mind our own business while Jessie would follow my mom around the house, sticking as close as possible to her ankles in what seemed to be an attempt to avoid contact with any other living creatures. I was always a little bit jealous of my mom's relationship with Jessie for some reason. I guess I just wanted something to care about me so much that it would follow me around everywhere I went. As much as I love cats, they don't exactly satisfy that criteria. To me though, Jessie was never anything more than a static side character in my life. Years passed, people changed, but Jessie was always just as uncaring as ever. I guess I found her unwavering disposition comforting somehow, because when she did change, I suddenly found myself caring about her.