

Weighing the Dog by Billy Collins

It is awkward for me and bewildering for him
as I hold him in my arms in the small bathroom,
balancing our weight on the shaky blue scale,
but this is the way to weigh a dog and easier
than training him to sit obediently on one spot
with his tongue out, waiting for the cookie.

*imagery

what is the speaker really weighing?
symbolic?

repeat. last line

unsteady/uncomfortable

- * Free verse
- * 5- tercets
- * math terms - repet. Symbolic

With pencil and paper, I subtract my weight from our total to find out the remainder that is his, and I start to wonder if there is an analogy here.

It could not have to do with my leaving you though I never figured out what you amounted to until I subtracted myself from our combination.

relationship

last 2-stanzas = analogy

You held me in your arms more than I held you through all those awkward and bewildering months and now we are both lost in strange and distant neighborhoods.

time lapse

break-up

speaker like the dog
dead weight;
confused

repet. line #1

1st pov.

dog

alliteration (color symbolic) enjambment

akin to speaker (untrainable / not worth effort)