

The neighbors' dog will not stop barking.  
He is barking the same high, rhythmic bark  
that he barks every time they leave the house.  
They must switch him on on their way out.

Metaphor  
turning on a  
machine, light

The neighbors' dog will not stop barking.  
I close all the windows in the house  
and put on a Beethoven symphony full blast  
but I can still hear him muffled under the music,  
barking, barking, barking,

Repetition

and now I can see him sitting in the orchestra,  
his head raised confidently as if Beethoven  
had included a part for barking dog.

Image  
Dog joining  
the orchestra...

When the record finally ends he is still barking,  
sitting there in the oboe section barking,  
his eyes fixed on the conductor who is  
entreating him with his baton

while the other musicians listen in respectful  
silence to the famous barking dog solo,  
that endless coda that first established  
Beethoven as an innovative genius.

\*Tone -> Stressed, Annoyed

--Billy Collins

Sketch a picture visualized from the poem.



We've intentionally left the title off of this poem.  
What do you believe would be an appropriate title for this piece?

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