

ALBERTO BLANCO

MEXICO (1951–)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

EL GRILLO

La noche tiene su brillo
su música y su silencio...
pues cada estrella es un grillo
entre la hierba del cielo.



Alberto Blanco often carries around a small pencil and journal for sketching or jotting down ideas. Bugs, birds, and other elements of nature are frequent images in his poems. With each piece, Blanco urges us to listen and watch more carefully. When asked why he does not translate his own poetry into English, he said, “I could not possibly translate into a language in which *la luna* (the moon) is no longer feminine.”

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
brillo (n.)	strength of light	shine, glow, glitter, sparkle, brilliance
cada (adj.)	every one	each, all, every
cielo (n.)	region above earth	sky, heavens, blue yonder
del (prep. + art.)	connected with something	of the
entre (prep.)	indicates comparison	between, among, amongst
es (v.)	from the verb <i>ser</i> (to be)	is
estrella (n.)	mass of gas in space	star
grillo (n.)	leaping, chirping insect	cricket
hierba (n.)	hollow-stemmed green plant	grass, lawn, weed, turf
la (art.)	feminine form of the article meaning one as opposed to another	the
música: (n.)	sounds that produce effect	music, melody, song
noche (n.)	dark time of the day	night, nighttime
pues (conj.)	for that reason, seeing that	because, since, as, therefore, then
silencio (n.)	quietness	silence, stillness, calm, hush, lull
su (pron.)	belonging to something or someone previously mentioned	her, his, their, its, your
tiene (v.)	from the verb <i>tener</i> (to have)	has, contains, encompasses, holds
un (art.)	masculine singular—indicates that something is unique	one, a, an
y (conj.)	plus	and, as well as

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

EL GRILLO _____

La noche tiene su brillo _____

su música y su silencio... _____

pues cada estrella es un grillo _____

entre la hierba del cielo. _____

REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
