

ARTHUR RIMBAUD

FRANCE (1854–1891)

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

L'ÉTERNITÉ

Elle est retrouvée.
Quoi?—L'Éternité.
C'est la mer allée
Avec le soleil

Âme sentinelle,
Murmurons l'aveu
De la nuit si nulle
Et du jour en feu.
[...]



Considered one of France's most influential poets, Arthur Rimbaud wrote most of his poetry during his teenage years. His father, an army captain, abandoned the family when Rimbaud was six years old. When his school shut down at the start of the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871), Rimbaud ran away, wandering the countryside until he arrived in Paris. There, he met the poet Paul Verlaine, and the two had a brief relationship that ended in a passionate and violent argument. Rimbaud gave up writing poetry but traveled the world, eventually settling in Ethiopia. After Rimbaud's death, Verlaine published his complete works, which continue to be celebrated today.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
allée (adj.)	having left; no longer present	gone, gone away, run off, departed
âme (n.)	the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal	soul, spirit, psyche, life force
avec (prep.)	accompanied by	with, along with
c'est (pron. + v.)	subject combined with the third person singular form of the verb <i>to be</i>	it is, it's
de (prep.)	belonging to, relating to, or connected with	of
du (prep. + art.)	belonging to, relating to, or connected with a person or thing that has already been mentioned or is known	of the
elle (pron.)	used to refer to a person or inanimate object recently mentioned	it, she
en feu (phrase)	emitting flames, bright light, heat, and smoke	on fire, aflame, in flames, burning, ablaze, ignited, alight
est (v.)	from the verb <i>être</i> —to exist	is, has been
et (conj.)	used to join words or groups of words; additionally; plus	and
jour (n.)	the time between sunrise and sunset	day, daytime, daylight, waking hours
la (art.)	a person or thing already mentioned or well known	the
l'aveu (n.)	the act of acknowledging one's sins or formally stating one's beliefs	the confession, the vow, the admission, the creed
le (art.)	a person or thing already mentioned or well known	the
l'éternité (n.)	infinite or unending time	eternity, all time, perpetuity, forever, afterlife, time without end
mer (n.)	the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface	sea, ocean, swell, waves, brine, waters

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
murmurons (v.)	from the verb <i>murmurer</i> —to speak very softly	let's whisper, let's murmur, let's mutter, let's mumble
nuit (n.)	the period of darkness between sunset and sunrise	night, nighttime, darkness, nightfall, sunset
nulle (adj.)	containing nothing or nobody	void, null, empty, vacant, blank, desolate, deserted
quoi (pron.)	asking for repetition of something not heard or explanation of something not understood	what, huh, sorry, what's that, who
retrouvée (adj.)	encountered for the second time after a period of being lost	found again, rediscovered, recovered, revealed, reclaimed, retrieved, salvaged
sentinelle (adj.)	carefully observant or attentive	watchful, on guard, sentinel, protector
si (adv.)	used for emphasis; very much	so, so very, extremely, remarkably, unusually, infinitely
soleil (n.)	the star around which the earth orbits	sun, sunshine, sunlight, daylight, sunbeams

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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[...]

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?
