

BOADIBA

USA / HAITI (?–)

LANGUAGE: HAITIAN CREOLE

NOU PASE KAY ETRANJE

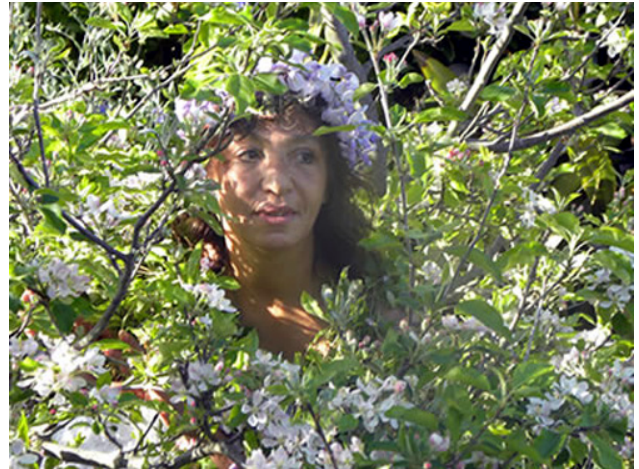
Nou pase kay etranje
Nou jwenn pitit nou
Ap bale papòt

Nou chita nan salon etranje
Nou wè tablo nou
Kwoke sou mi
Nou tande mizik nou ap sot nan gagann yo

N'antrè nan kizin etranje
Nou jwenn toutrèl nou
Ap kuit nan chodyè yo

Yo ta chode toutrèl lavi-n
Yo ta toufe zwezo bèlte-n

Men gen moun ki pase
Chodyè-a dekouvri
Toutrèl vole l'ale



Boadiba is the pen name of a Haitian author, poet, translator, and performance artist. While her birthdate is unknown, we do know that she immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. She lives in Oakland, California, but continues to visit Haiti regularly. When the massive earthquake hit the island in 2010, she was there visiting family. She wrote about that experience in what she called an “earthquake diary.”

Haitian Creole is a French-based language and the first language of most Haitians. The word *creole* comes from a Portuguese word for “person”—particularly a servant raised in one’s house, but today it refers to the language generated by hundreds of years of contact between European settlers and their African slaves.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ap bale (participle)	to cleaning an area by brushing away dirt or litter	sweeping, cleaning, wiping, dusting, mopping
ap kuit (participle)	to heat up on the stove	cooking, boiling, simmering, frying, heating, sizzling, stewing
ap sot (participle)	referring to the direction of origin	coming from, traveling from, flowing from, originating from
bèlte-n (adj.)	belonging to the speaker and one or more people and pleasing the senses or mind	our beautiful, our...of beauty, our glorious, our graceful
chita (v.)	to adopt or be in a position in which one's weight is supported by one's backside rather than one's feet	sit, take a seat, perch, rest, squat, grab a chair
chode (v.)	to injure with very hot liquid or steam	scald, cook, steam, blanch, char, heat, scorch
chodyè (n.)	a container, typically rounded or cylindrical, used for cooking	pot, cauldron, stewpot
chodyè-a (art. + n.)	a container used for cooking that has been previously mentioned	the pot, the cauldron, the stewpot
dekouvri (adj.)	characterized by not having a lid	uncovered, opened, lidless
etranje (adj.)	belonging to a person who comes from a country other than one's own or is unfamiliar	of a foreigner, a foreigner's, a stranger's, foreign, alien, an outsider's, a settler's
gagann (n.)	the part of the body used to speak and sing	throat, windpipe, mouth
gen (v.)	denoting the existence or arrival of something or someone	there is, here comes
jwenn (v.)	perceive by chance or unexpectedly	find, discover, observe, notice, spot, encounter, come across, run into
kay (n.)	the place where one lives permanently	home, house, household, residence, abode, homestead

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ki (pron.)	used to introduce a clause giving further information about a person or people previously mentioned	those that, who
kizin (n.)	a room or area where food is prepared and cooked	kitchen, canteen, cookery, kitchenette
kwoke sou (phrase)	suspended from or attached to a surface	hanging on, fixed to, attached to, displayed upon, nailed to, covering
l'ale (adv.)	to or at a distance from a particular place, person, or thing	away, off, from here, from there, elsewhere, far off, far away
lavi-n (adj.)	not dead	alive, living, live, mortal, animate
men (conj.)	used to introduce something contrasting	but, yet, however, still, nonetheless, nevertheless, despite that, all the same
mi (n.)	the sides of a building or room	walls
mizik (n.)	a sound perceived as pleasingly harmonious	music, song, melody, singing, tune, harmony, refrain
moun (n.)	unknown or unspecified person	someone, a person, some soul
n'antrè (pron. + v.)	from the verb meaning "to come or go into a place"	we enter, we go, we come, we pass, we set foot in
nan (prep.)	expressing the state of being enclosed or surrounded by something else	in, within, inside, into
nou (pron. / adj.)	1. <i>pronoun</i> —used by the speaker to refer to him or herself and one or more other people 2. <i>adjective</i> —belonging to or associated with the speaker and one or more other people	we; our, of ours
papòt (n.)	the space surrounding or immediately in front of a door	threshold, entrance, doorway, floor, doorstep, entryway, gateway
pase (v.)	to move across or through	pass(es) into, enter(s), walk(s) into, go(es) into, set(s) foot in
pitit (n.)	sons and/or daughters	children, kids, offspring, little ones

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
salon (n.)	a reception room in a large house	salon, living room, sitting room, lounge, drawing room, parlor, gallery
ta (v.)	expressing a desire or objective	would, are trying to, intend to, want to
tablo (n.)	works of art	paintings, pictures, artwork, sketches, canvases, compositions
tande (v.)	perceive sound with the ear	hear, make out, overhear, discern
toufe (v.)	to cause to die from lack of air or inability to breathe	choke, smother, suffocate
toutrèl (n.)	a bird with a small head, short legs, and a cooing voice	dove, turtledove
vole (v.)	moves through the air	flies, soars, flutters, sails, takes flight, takes off
wè (v.)	perceive visually with the eyes	see, find, discover, spot, catch sight of, glimpse
yo (pron. / adj.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>pronoun</i>—used to refer to two or more people or someone of unspecified gender <i>adjective</i>—belonging to or associated with two or more people or someone of unspecified gender 	they; their
zwezo (n.)	warm-blooded, egg-laying animal distinguished by the possession of feathers, wings, and a beak	bird, fowl

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?
