

# DAISY ZAMORA

NICARAGUA (1950–)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

## LA INMIGRANTE

Se despierta extrañada  
desconociendo el cuarto.

¿Adónde se fue el padre,  
dónde la madre  
que hace un momento apenas  
la acompañaban?

Se levanta y suspira.

Este cuarto extranjero  
y la luz indiferente  
de una mañana cualquiera  
que la hiere.

Desde la calle  
los ruidos de la vida entran.  
Y el suelo queda estrujado  
como un pañuelo.



Daisy Zamora grew up in Nicaragua under the Somoza dictatorship. She took part in the Nicaraguan Revolution during the 1970s. She was forced into exile but continued to help the revolution from abroad. Once the revolution was successful, she became Nicaragua's Deputy Minister of Culture. One of Latin America's most prominent poets, Zamora uses poetry to defend those who are not given the voice to speak.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
acompañaban (v.)	past tense of the verb acompañar—to be with or to go along with	they accompanied, they were with, they escorted
adónde (adv.)	interrogative, questioning location	to where?
apenas (adv.)	in the immediate past; used to emphasize a small amount	just, only, barely, hardly, scarcely
calle (n.)	roadway for cars, pedestrians, and urban life	road, street, outside, neighborhood
como (prep.)	in the manner of; similar	like, as, akin to, similar to, not unlike
cualquiera (adj.)	no matter which	whichever, any, whatever
cuarto (n.)	space or segment of the inside of a building separated by walls	room, boxed space, area, territory, dwelling
de (prep.)	indicates relation or origin	of, by, with
desconociendo (v.)	from the verb desconocer—to find foreign or not recognize	not knowing, not remembering, not recognizing, not identifying, unfamiliar with
desde (prep.)	source or beginning of something	from
dónde (adv.)	interrogative, questioning location	where?
el (art.)	masculine singular; indicating one as distinct from another	the
entran (v.)	from the verb entrar—to come or go into	they enter, they access, they come in, they flood in
este (adj.)	something already mentioned	this
estrujado (adj.)	pressed from two sides	crumpled, crushed, squeezed, pressed, wrung out
extranjero (adj.)	from a different place	foreign, strange, unknown
extrañada (adj.)	thrown into confusion; feeling as if cast out of a place or relationship	exiled, missed, cast out, surprised, perturbed, disconcerted, weirded-out, uncomfortable
hace (v.)	used before a length of time; refers to the past	ago

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
hiere (v.)	from the verb herir—to physically or emotionally injure	wounds, hurts, injures
indiferente (adj.)	makes no difference or gives no importance to	indifferent, unimportant, irrelevant
inmigrante (n.)	a person who takes up residence in a new country	immigrant, migrant, newcomer
la (art./pron.)	feminine singular—indicating one as distinct from another (if before a noun); or her (if before a verb)	the, her
los (art.)	masculine plural—indicating one as distinct from another	the
luz (n.)	energy that produces brightness	light, glow
madre (n.)	a female parent	mom, mother
mañana (n.)	the period of time between sunrise and noon; the day after today	morning, daybreak, tomorrow, future
momento (n.)	a brief portion of time, a point in time	moment, instant, minute, second
padre (n.)	a male parent	dad, father
pañuelo (n.)	small cloth for wiping the nose or wearing around the neck	handkerchief, scarf
que (conj.)	used to introduce a new clause	that, which
queda (v.)	from the verb quedar—to continue in a place or condition	remains, stays, keeps, still is
ruidos (n.)	the sensation perceived by the sense of hearing through sound waves	noises, racket, clamor, sounds
se despierta (v.)	From the verb despertarse—to wake up from sleep	she awakens, she wakes up, she arises
se fue (v.)	past tense of the verb irse—to go	go, escape, withdraw, leave
se levanta (v.)	from the verb levantarse—to get out of bed or stand up	she gets up, she rises, she stands
suelo (n.)	part of the room that is walked on	ground, floor, earth

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
suspira (v.)	from the verb <i>suspirar</i> —to take a long and loud breath, to breathe	sighs, gasps, breathes, takes a deep breath
un (art.)	masculine form—used to distinguish something or someone	one, a
una (art.)	feminine form—used to distinguish something or someone	one, a
vida (n.)	the distinctive quality of animate beings; the period from birth to death	life, daily life, hustle and bustle
y (conj.)	in addition to	and, plus, moreover

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHRASE BY PHRASE

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dónde la madre \_\_\_\_\_

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de una mañana cualquiera \_\_\_\_\_

que la hiere. \_\_\_\_\_

Desde la calle \_\_\_\_\_

los ruidos de la vida entran. \_\_\_\_\_

Y el suelo queda estrujado \_\_\_\_\_

como un pañuelo. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## MAKE IT FLOW

Now it's time to think about:

- **FORM:** Do you want your translation to follow the same form? Will it have the same number of lines and stanzas?
- **SOUND:** Which sounds stand out to you in the original? Will your translation sound similar? Is that important to you?
- **SYNTAX:** This means the word order. Word order changes across languages, so you may need to rearrange words so that the poem “flows” in English. Read your translation aloud. Does it sound natural to you? Read it aloud as a group. What do your group members think?

Remember that you can't possibly capture every aspect of the original language, and you can't avoid adding something in the new language.

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## REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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?

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

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

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