

DANIEL BOULANGER

FRANCE (1922–2014)

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

POÈMES: RETOUCHES

RETOUCHE À L'EXAMEN DE CONSCIENCE

Les miroirs en vis-à-vis
font des discours à l'infini

RETOUCHE À UNE HISTOIRE

du puits bordé de mots
fais à ta mort
un tombeau

RETOUCHE À LA SIESTE

Le chien regarde son maître
le maître la fenêtre
et la fenêtre un arbre
où les oiseaux font les mouvements de l'eau



Daniel Boulanger was born in Compiègne, France. He was a poet, writer, playwright, and Oscar-nominated screenwriter. During World War II, Boulanger joined the French Resistance in order to fight against the invading Nazis. After the war, he decided to leave France. He spent several years traveling to far-off places, such as Brazil, Chad, and Bulgaria. When he returned to France, he began his career as a writer.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
à (prep.)	as far as, in the direction of	for, at, to
arbre (n.)	a plant with branches, roots, and usually leaves	tree
bordé (adj.)	surrounding the outer edge of something	lined, rimmed, bordered, edged, framed
chien (n.)	a furry animal with four legs and a tail	dog, hound, mutt
conscience (n.)	the ability to decide between right and wrong; knowledge of the self	conscience, self-awareness, sense of right and wrong
de (prep.)	a connecting word used to describe a part of something	of, with
des (adj.)	a word used to describe parts but not all of something	some, a few, a little, a quantity of, a number of
discours (n.)	a conversation with multiple points of view, or a talk with one point of view	discussions, conversations, speeches, dialogue, debates, talk, words
du (prep. + art.)	a connecting word used to describe a part of something	of the, from the
en vis-à-vis (adj.)	an idiomatic expression that communicates the idea of directly facing someone	facing each other, face-to-face
et (conj.)	plus, along with	and, in addition to, as well as
fais (v.)	from the verb <i>faire</i> —meaning “to do” or “to make”	make, create, build, formulate, craft
fenêtre (n.)	a large opening in a wall or door, usually covered with glass	window
font (v.)	From the verb <i>faire</i> —meaning “to do” or “to make”	do, make, create, build, formulate, craft
histoire (n.)	the past; or the telling of events, sometimes made up	story, tale, history, narrative, account, yarn, legend, chronicle, fib, invention
l'eau (n.)	a clear liquid	water
l'examen (n.)	a method used to find out the ability or quality of something	test, the examination

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
l'infini (n.)	anything that is endless	infinity, the infinite, endlessness, the unlimited, the inestimable
le, la, les (art.)	articles used before a noun	the
maître (n.)	a person who owns something	master, owner, proprietor, holder, possessor
miroirs (n.)	glass surfaces that reflect images	mirrors
mort (n.)	the end of life	death, doom, demise, destruction
mots (n.)	the pieces that make up language and express meaning	words, utterances, expressions
mouvements (n.)	the opposite of stillness	movements, gestures, shifting, stirring
oiseaux (n.)	animals that have wings, lay eggs, and usually can fly	birds
où (prep.)	the position of something	where, wherever, anywhere
poèmes (n.)	pieces of writing that have figurative language and are written in separate lines	poems, compositions, lines
puits (n.)	a hole in the ground filled with water	well, wellspring
regarde (v.)	from the verb <i>regarder</i> —meaning “to look at”	looks at, watches, observes, views, scrutinizes, examines
retouche (n.)	a revised edition or form of something	correction, amendment, modification, revision, reconsideration
sieste (n.)	a short period of rest or sleep	nap, siesta, catnap, rest
son (poss. adj.)	belonging to someone	his, her, its
ta (poss. adj.)	belonging to the person being spoken to	your
tombeau (n.)	an engraved stone used to mark a grave	tombstone, gravestone, headstone
un, une (art.)	words used before a noun to distinguish one particular thing from many	a, an, one

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?
