

GIUSEPPE UNGARETTI

ITALY (1888-1970)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

POETIC FORM: FREE VERSE

MATTINA

(Santa Maria La Longa il 26 gennaio 1917)

M'illumino
d'immenso.



Giuseppe Ungaretti was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and grew up speaking French. At age 24, he moved to Paris, where he became friends with many writers and artists including Pablo Picasso. He later joined the Italian army and fought in World War I. Ungaretti wrote many of his poems—including this one—on scraps of paper while fighting in the trenches.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
il 26 gennaio 1917 (phrase)	the date when Ungaretti wrote this poem	January 26, 1917
m'illumino (pron. + v.)	from the verb <i>illuminare</i> , meaning to fill with light	I brighten, I light up, I am lit up, I shine
d'immenso (prep. + n.)	relating to an area so big that it cannot be measured	in its greatness, with the infinite, in the great beyond
mattina (n.)	the earliest time of the day	dawn, morning, sunrise
Santa Maria La Longa (n.)	an area in northeast Italy close to the border of Slovenia	Santa Maria La Longa

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

MATTINA _____

(Santa Maria La Longa il 26 gennaio 1917) _____

M'illumino _____

d'immenso _____

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?
