

JORGE LUIS BORGES

ARGENTINA (1899–1986)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

LA LLUVIA

Bruscamente la tarde se ha aclarado
Porque ya cae la lluvia minuciosa.
Cae o cayó. La lluvia es una cosa
Que sin duda sucede en el pasado.

Quien la oye caer ha recobrado
El tiempo en que la suerte venturosa
Le reveló una flor llamada rosa
Y el curioso color del colorado.

Esta lluvia que ciega los cristales
Alegrará en perdidos arrabales
Las negras uvas de una parra en cierto

Patio que ya no existe. La mojada
Tarde me trae la voz, la voz deseada,
De mi padre que vuelve y que no ha muerto.



Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, a master of fantasy and fable, is considered one of Latin America's most brilliant and controversial writers. He grew up bilingual—speaking English and Spanish in the home—and went on to study and master French, German, and even Anglo-Saxon. At the age of six, he told his father he wanted to be a writer, and spent his time in his father's library reading as much as he could. At seven he wrote a summary of the Greek myths in English; he wrote an original composition at eight; and at nine, he published his Spanish translation of an Oscar Wilde story in a local journal. Throughout his career, Borges loved to use symbols and metaphors in his writing. Starting in his early thirties, he suffered from progressive blindness. Some think that this helped him to create symbols through imagination.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
alegrará (v.)	from the verb <i>alegrar</i> —to make someone or something happy	will bring joy, will cheer up, will brighten, will animate
arrabales (n.)	squalid and overcrowded areas on the outskirts of towns with crude dwellings inhabited by very poor people	shantytowns, slums, outskirts
bruscamente (adv.)	all of a sudden and with force	abruptly, suddenly, brusquely, unexpectedly, sharply, bluntly
cae (v.)	from the verb <i>caer</i> —to move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level	falls, cascades, comes down, tumbles, plummets
caer (v.)	to move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level	falling, cascading, coming down, tumbling, plummeting
cayó (v.)	the past tense of the verb <i>caer</i> —to move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level	fell, cascaded, came down, tumbled, plummeted
ciega (v.)	from the verb <i>cegar</i> —to cause (someone) to be unable to see or to obstruct someone or something	outshines, overshadows, blinds one from, blocks, obstructs
cierto (adj.)	specific but not explicitly stated	certain, particular, singular, specific
color (n.)	property causing visual sensation, not black or white	color, tint, hue
colorado (adj.)	of or resembling the color red; having color	red, crimson, scarlet, ruby, colored
cosa (n.)	an object that is not specified	thing, entity, element
cristales (n.)	pieces of a homogeneous solid substance having a natural geometrically regular form with symmetrically arranged plane faces	crystals, glass
curioso (adj.)	strange and unusual	curious, strange, bizarre, unusual, extraordinary, surprising, odd

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
de (prep.)	expressing ownership or origin	of, from
del (prep. + art.)	expressing ownership or origin of something already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	of the
deseada (adj.)	strongly wished for or wanted	desired, yearned for, longed for, pleasing
el (art.)	masculine singular form—indicating one as distinct from another	the
en (prep.)	indicates location within a time or place	in, within, during
es (v.)	from verb <i>ser</i> —to exist or to be true	is
esta (adj.)	used to identify a specific person or thing close at hand or being indicated or experienced	this
existe (v.)	from the verb <i>existir</i> —to have objective reality or being	exists, is, remains, survives, is present
flor (n.)	the seed-bearing part of a plant, consisting of stamens and carpels that are typically surrounded by petals	flower, bloom, blossom, floret
ha muerto (v.)	from the verb <i>morir</i> —no longer living	has died, has perished, has departed, has passed away
ha recobrado (v.)	from the verb <i>recobrar</i> —to find or regain possession of something	has recovered, has retrieved, has found, has reclaimed, has recouped, has regained
la (art.)	feminine singular form—indicating one as distinct from another	the
la oye (v. + pron.)	from the verb <i>oír</i> —to perceive sound	hears it, perceives it, listens to it, overhears it
las (art.)	feminine plural form—indicating some as distinct from others	the
le (pron.)	the person or thing for whom or toward whom an action is being done	to him, to her, to it

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
llamada (past part.)	from the verb <i>llamar</i> —to call, to name	called, named, termed, labeled, christened
lluvia (n.)	moisture condensed from the atmosphere that falls visibly in separate drops	rain, drizzle, raindrops, droplets, deluge, downpour
los (art.)	masculine plural form—indicating some as distinct from others	the
me (pron.)	to myself	to me
mi (poss. pron.)	belonging to the speaker	my
minuciosa (adj.)	very careful and precise	thorough, methodical, diligent, meticulous, fastidious
mojada (adj.)	covered or saturated with water or another liquid	wet, drenched, humid, muggy, misty, damp, moist, dripping, soggy, sopping
negras (adj.)	devoid of light	black
no (adv.)	used to form a negative	not, not at all, no longer
o (conj.)	indicating an alternative	or, or else, or rather
padre (n.)	a man in relation to his child or children	father, dad, papa, old man, pop
parra (n.)	plant that bears grapes	grapevine, vine
pasado (n.)	the time or period before the present	past, days gone by, times past, history
patio (n.)	the paved area outside of a house or building	patio, courtyard
perdidos (adj.)	empty or uninhabited; not clean; isolated	abandoned, discarded, dispensed with, filthy, stray, remote
porque (conj.)	for the reason that	because, since, as, seeing that
que (conj.)	function word used to introduce a new clause	that, which, who
quien (pron.)	any person who	whoever, whosoever
reveló (v.)	from verb <i>revelar</i> —to make something known	revealed, exposed, divulged, disclosed

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
rosa (n.)	prickly bush with flowers	rose
se ha aclarado (v.)	from the verb <i>aclarar</i> —to be free of cloud, mist, or rain	has cleared, has been cleansed, has brightened, has become illuminated
sin duda (phrase)	literally meaning “without doubt,” this phrase implies certainty	without a doubt, undoubtedly, surely, definitely, without fail
sucede (v.)	from verb <i>suceder</i> —to take place	happens, is found, occurs, takes place, ensues, exists, turns up
suerte (n.)	favorable or unfavorable circumstances caused by chance	luck, fortune, fate, chance
tarde (n.)	the time from noon or lunchtime to evening	afternoon
tiempo (n.)	a definite portion of time allotted, used, or suitable for a purpose	time, moment, occasion, instant
trae (v.)	from the verb <i>traer</i> —to cause someone or something to come to a place or person	brings, carries, takes, transports, shepherds, guides
una (art.)	used when referring to something for the first time	a, an, one, some
uvas (n.)	small edible fruits that grow on vines	grapes
venturosa (adj.)	implying happiness and favor	lucky, fortunate, auspicious, happy
voz (n.)	sound made using vocal organs	voice, call, murmur, words
vuelve (v.)	from the verb <i>volver</i> —to come or go back	returns, comes back, revisits, reappears
y (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as, plus
ya (adv.)	before or by now or the time in question	already, now, as of now

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

LA LLUVIA _____

Bruscamente la tarde se ha aclarado _____

Porque ya cae la lluvia minuciosa. _____

Cae o cayó. La lluvia es una cosa _____

Que sin duda sucede en el pasado. _____

Quien la oye caer ha recobrado _____

El tiempo en que la suerte venturosa _____

Le reveló una flor llamada rosa _____

Y el curioso color del colorado. _____

Esta lluvia que ciega los cristales _____

Alegrará en perdidos arrabales _____

Las negras uvas de una parra en cierto _____

Patio que ya no existe. La mojada _____

Tarde me trae la voz, la voz deseada, _____

De mi padre que vuelve y que no ha muerto. _____

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?
