

MARIO BENEDETTI

URUGUAY (1920–2009)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

DE RINCÓN DE HAIKUS

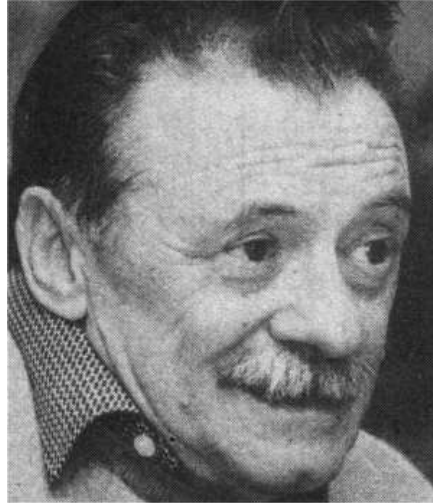
La mariposa
Recordará por siempre
Que fue gusano

~

Ola por ola
El mar lo sabe todo
Pero se olvida

~

Si en el crepúsculo
El sol era memoria
Ya no me acuerdo



Mario Benedetti was born into poverty in a small city of Uruguay. As an adult he was constantly working just to make enough money to feed his family. In what little free time he had, he went to the library to read everything he could. This was how he discovered poetry. Little by little Benedetti began to write and publish his own poems about his life experiences with work, travels, and family. He worked as a journalist, but when an oppressive dictatorship took over Uruguay in 1973, he was forced to flee the country and live in exile, while his wife remained behind to take care of their aging mothers. He lived in Argentina, Peru, Cuba, and Spain before returning to his homeland in 1983 as the country was transitioning back to democracy. Though not as well known in the English-speaking world, Benedetti is extremely famous in Latin America and considered one of the best poets of the twentieth century.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
crepúsculo (n.)	soft, glowing light in the sky when the sun is below the horizon	twilight, dusk, sunset, close of day, half-light
de (prep.)	expressing location in a particular place or position; expressing the relationship between a part and a whole	at, of, from
era (v.)	second person singular imperfect form of the verb <i>ser</i> , indicating someone or something that existed in the past over time	was
el (def. art.)	masculine form of the definite article	the
en (prep.)	expressing location or arrival in a particular place	at
fue (v.)	first person singular preterit tense of the verb <i>ser</i> , indicating something or someone that existed in the past	I was
gusano (n.)	burrowing invertebrate with a slender body	worm, caterpillar
haikus (n.)	short forms of poetry in a style that was originally developed in Japan	haiku
la (def. art.)	feminine form of the definite article	the
lo (pron.)	refers to something previously mentioned or easily identified	it
mar (n.)	the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface and surrounds its landmasses	sea, ocean
mariposa (n.)	insect with two pairs of large wings covered in tiny scales, brightly colored	butterfly
me acuerdo (v.)	first person singular of the reflexive verb <i>acordarse</i> meaning to bring something back into one's mind	I remember, I recall, I recollect, I call to mind
memoria (n.)	something remembered from the past	memory, recollection, remembrance, reminiscence
no (adv.)	not any	no, not, do not
ola (n.)	a long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore	wave, swell

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
pero (conj.)	used to introduce something contrasting with what has already been mentioned	but, yet
por (prep.)	used to indicate duration of time; referring to repetition	for, by
que (conj.)	used to refer to something that was previously mentioned	that
recordará (v.)	third person singular future form of the verb <i>recordar</i> , meaning "to be able to bring to one's mind awareness of someone/something known/experienced in the past"	will remember, will recall, will recollect, will call to mind
rincón (n.)	a place or angle where two or more sides or edges meet	corner, junction, intersection
sabe (v.)	third person singular of the verb <i>saber</i> , meaning "to be aware of through observation, inquiry, or information"	knows, has knowledge of, is conscious of, comprehends
se olvida (v.)	third person singular of the reflexive verb <i>olvidarse</i> , meaning "to forget, not remember"	forgets, fails to remember, overlooks
si (conj.)	introducing a conditional clause	if, on the condition that, provided that, providing
siempre (adv.)	at all times; on all occasions	always, without fail, unflinching, forever
sol (n.)	the star around which the earth orbits	sun
todo (pron.)	all things	everything, every single thing, all
ya (adv.)	before or by now or the time in question	already, by this time, thus

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?
