

# RISTO RASA

FINLAND (1954–)

LANGUAGE: FINNISH

## ON AAMU

On aamu.

Parvekkeen kaiteelta hyppää varpunen  
keittiön ikkunan alle tutkimaan,  
onko äiti ravistanut pöytäliinan.



Risto Rasa is one of Finland's most popular poets. He has written nine books of poetry, most often short meditations on nature, love, and everyday life. He is currently the head librarian in the rural town of Somero where he lives with his wife.

Located in northern Europe, Finland is the eighth largest country in the continent. Despite its size, it only has a population of 5.4 million (a little less than the population of the San Francisco Bay Area). The Finnish word for Finland is *Suomi*. The Finnish language does not belong to the Indo-European language family to which most of Europe's languages (English, Spanish, French, German, and Russian, for example) belong.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
aamu (n.)	the period of time between midnight and noon, especially from sunrise to noon	morning, dawn, daybreak, sunrise, first light, sunup
äiti (n.)	a woman in relation to a child or children to whom she has given birth	mother, mom, mama, mommy, ma
alle (prep.)	at a lower level or layer than	below, under, beneath, underneath, further down
hyppää (v.)	from the verb <i>hypätä</i> —to push oneself off a surface and into the air by using the muscles in one's legs and feet	hops, skips, jumps, leaps, springs, bounces, dances
ikkunan (n.)	an opening in the wall that is fitted with glass, allowing people to see out	window, aperture, casement, fenestra, porthole, bay window
kaiteelta (n.)	a bar fixed to posts or a wall for people to hold on to for support	railing, handrail, rails, siding, banister
keittiön (n.)	a room or area where food is prepared and cooked	kitchen, kitchenette, cookery
on (v.)	stating a thing's existence or presence	it is, this is, here is
onko (conj.)	expressing an inquiry or investigation	if, whether, whether or not
parvekkeen (n.)	a platform enclosed by a wall or railing on the outside of a building	balcony, veranda, terrace, balustrade, patio
pöytäliinan (n.)	a piece of fabric spread over a table, especially during meals	tablecloth, table linen, napery
ravistanut (v.)	to move something up and down or from side to side with rapid, forceful movements	shaking, shaking out, unfurling, brandishing, agitating, jiggling
tutkimaan (v.)	to ascertain or discover something with the eyes	see, examine, investigate, check out, glimpse, detect
varpunen (n.)	a small finch-like bird related to weaverbirds, typically with brown and gray plumage	sparrow

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

## PHRASE BY PHRASE

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keittiön ikkunan alle tutkimaan, \_\_\_\_\_

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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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