

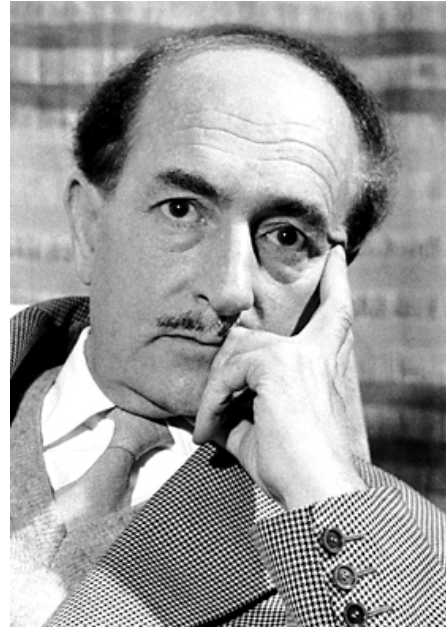
SALVATORE QUASIMODO

ITALY (1901–1968)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

ED È SUBITO SERA

Ognuno sta solo sul cuor della terra
trafitto da un raggio di sole:
Ed è subito sera.



One of Italy's most important poets of the twentieth century, Salvatore Quasimodo was born in Modica, Sicily. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Messina, a city in Sicily that had been struck by a devastating earthquake, so his father could help the victims there. Quasimodo published his first poems when he was just sixteen. He studied to be an engineer but had to leave school for economic reasons. When he wasn't working, he continued to write poetry and also studied Latin and Greek. Throughout his career he was known for his strong, passionate writing and for his translations of important texts into Italian, including parts of the Bible and works of Shakespeare. In 1959 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
cuor (n.)	the central or innermost part of something	heart, core, center, crux, nucleus
da (prep.)	identifying the agent performing an action	by, by means of, at the hand of, by way of
della (prep. + art.)	expressing the relationship between a part and a whole	of the
di (prep.)	expressing ownership	of
è (v.)	from the verb <i>essere</i> —to be, to exist	it is
ed (conj.)	used to introduce an additional comment	and, so, then, and so
ognuno (pron.)	each person in a group, without exception	everybody, everyone, all of us, each of us
raggio (n.)	a narrow beam of light	ray, beam, shaft, light, beacon
sera (n.)	the later part of the day, from late afternoon until bedtime	evening, twilight, dusk, nightfall, eventide, sunset, sundown
sole (n.)	the star at the center of our solar system.	sun, sunlight, daystar, eye of heaven, source of light
solo (adj.)	on one's own	alone, by oneself, solitary, solo, lonesome, unaccompanied
sta (v.)	from the verb <i>stare</i> —to be or stay	is, remains, stands, is situated
subito (adv.)	quickly and without warning	suddenly, all at once, swiftly, straightaway, now, anon
sul (prep.)	expressing location or arrival in a particular place or position	at the, in the, on the
terra (n.)	third planet from the sun	earth, world, planet
trafitto (v.)	to force through, to cut through	pierced, stabbed, impaled
un (indef. art)	used to refer to a single person or thing	one, a

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

ED È SUBITO SERA _____

Ognuno sta solo sul cuor della terra _____

trafitto da un raggio di sole: _____

Ed è subito sera. _____

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?
