

MANY VOICINGS, In Translation YWA Creative Writing Contest 2012: Writing samples and literary examples

- Gary Soto's books are the inspiration for this years' contest. He has written books for teens, adults, and elementary-aged readers. Check some out from your local library or buy your own from <http://www.garysoto.com/>
- The Upside Down Boy by Juan Felipe Herrera, a picture book memoir in both Spanish and English (Eugene Public Library)
- Delicious Hullabaloo by Por Pat Mora, a picture book poem in both English and Spanish (Eugene Public Library)
- The Tamarindo Puppy by Charlotte Pomerantz, a picture book of poems mixing English and Spanish (Eugene Public Library)
- From the Bellybutton of the Moon by Francisco X. Alarcon, a picture book of poems from Atoyac, Mexico in both Spanish & English (Eugene Public Library)
- My Mexico by Tony Johnson, a picture book of poems in Spanish & English (Eugene Public Library)
- Andiamo Weasel! by Rose Marie Grant, an Italian (Tuscan) tale with a sprinkling of Italian throughout (Eugene Public Library)
- The Tree Is Older Than You Are: Poems & Stories from Mexico gathered by Naomi Shihab Nye in both Spanish & English (all ages)
- Get Ready for Gabby, A Crazy Mixed-Up Spanglish Day by Marisa Montes (juvenile, Eugene Public Library)
- Neruda's Garden: An Anthology of Odes by Pablo Neruda in Spanish and English selected/translated by Maria Jacketti (all ages)

✎ Odes: list what you love and why you love it. Use two languages

- The Book of Questions by Pablo Neruda (all ages)

✎ Write a list of questions using Neruda's questions as a starting point. Use a mix of two languages

✎ Write bi-lingual or in a mix of two languages

- How-To, or How Not To
- Write down a memory or a list of memories
- Invitation for something you either love or hate doing
- A warning
- List things to do or NOT do
- List flowers, rocks, colors...
- Create a list of how to behave at different events
- List things 'I don't understand'
- List things that leave and come again

- *Teachers & Writers Magazine, Spring 2011, translation: writing ideas on the art and practice of translation* (<http://www.twc.org/publications/magazine/magazine-sample>).

✎ Find an adventurous friend. Read aloud to each other from a work by a great author from another part of the world. Talk about it. Experiment with translating a section of the work. Influenced by this experience, produce work inspired by the author. (all ages)

✎ *This Same Sky: a collection of Poetry from Around the World*, edited by Naomi Shihab Nye. *My Life Story* by Lan Nguyen from Vietnam begins: *What shall I tell them about my life? A life of changes/ A life of losing/Remembering* (poem example is teen/adult, but the writing idea is all ages)

- My Life is Like... Using contrast and the tug of opposites, find images, sounds, and objects to explore your present. (poem example is teen/adult, but the writing idea is all ages)

My Life (excerpt) by Monica Haan, high school, Iraq wrote:

My life is like a diary book
Like a big piece of paper
You can write anything on it
You can draw many things too.

My life is like pencil colors,
There are hot colors,
There are cold colors,
There are light colors, the bright morning
There are dark colors, the beautiful nights

✎ *River of Words: Young poets and artists on the Nature of Things*, edited by Pamela Michael and *Teaching for the Joy of Justice*, Linda Christensen (all ages)

- Memoir/creative nonfiction: Write from visual memory. High school poet, Chetan Patel writes, *I look into a mirror/and watch the history inside of me/flood out.*

- *Language is the only homeland*, writes poet Czeslow Miloszc. How could you use that quote in or to begin a poem or story? (teen/adult)

- Hannah's Journal by Marissa Moss, a ten year old emigrates from Lithuania in 1920 (elementary age, Eugene Public Library)

• Ice Drift by Theodore Taylor, a 14 year old and his brother cast adrift in the Greenland Strait (middle school, Eugene Public Library)

• Getting Personal, by Phillip Lopate, *Mistranslation*, in the exercise *In Quest of Her Beauty* (all ages)

✎ Write a poem or story that repeats a favorite word or phrases from another language. 1.) You may let your context give the word or phrase meaning. 2.) Or choose to define a little bit more of the meaning and or significance of a phrase each time it is repeated so that by the end the reader understands something about the character, culture or phrase a little more fully. (all ages)

✎ Homophonic translations use a poem or passage from a story in a foreign language that writers can pronounce but not necessarily understand and translate the sound into English (e.g., French "blanc" to blank or "toute" to toot). YWA writing mentor, Carter McKenzie sent in the following example from Getting Personal. Lopate describes his experience of getting a reluctant young student to write: "I took out a poem in French by Apollinaire and asked [Tommy] to write down a translation. 'I don't know French,' he said with understandable perplexity. I said I figured he didn't, but he should look at the words closely and say them over and over in his mind until they suggested some meanings. This is a technique called mistranslation, by which someone perfectly ignorant in a foreign language can 'translate' it by sound associations, visual similarities and wild guesses." (all ages)

Photographie -Apollinaire

Ton sourire m'attire comme
Pourrait m'attirer une fleur
Photographie tu es le champignon brun
De la forêt Qu'est sa beauté
Les blanc y sont
Un clair de lune Dans un jardin pacifique
Plein d'eaux vives et de jardiniers endiablés
Photographie tu es la fumée de l'ardeur
Qu'est sa beauté
Et il y en toi Photographie
Des tons alanguis
on y entend
Une mélodie
Photographie tu es l'ombre
Du soleil
Qu'est sa beauté

Photograph -Tommy

The town squire's mattress came back to town.
Poor mattress fell on the floor.
She photographed the champion broom.
She found herself in the forest,
In quest of her Beauty.
The blankets shone.
Her chair was held up by balloons.
She found people dancing in jars.
As they were dancing they were making
some dough as flat as a plain.
She photographed some fumes from the
dust that rose in quest of her beauty.
She photographed tons of languages.
They entered a melody.
She photographed two lumps of soil
in quest of her beauty.

• from Rose Where Did You Get That Red, Kenneth Kock, chapter 8 (all ages)

Red, yellow, white, black, brown, pink.

紅, 黃, 白, 黑, 棕, 粉紅.

Green restaurant.

綠飯店.

Big red sun.

大紅太陽

- Rose Where Did You Get That Red, Kenneth Koch, chapter eight (all ages)

📖 Read, *Romance Sonambulo* (first 24 lines) aloud, in English and then in Spanish Then read, *Arbole, Arbole...* Listen to certain phrases or words in English and in Spanish. For example *verde* and *green*, *verdes ramas* and *green branches*; which is greener? Which makes you see the most leaves? Do the same with *moon* and *luna*, asking which is moonier, which yellower, which more silvery? Is the sky outside more blue or more azul... Writing Idea: *Write about a beautiful, strange place, which is full of colors. Include some Spanish words in the writing. These may be color words, or any other words you find in the Lorca poems that you would like to use because of what they mean or just because you like the way they look or sound-you don't have to know what they mean.*

Romance Sonambulo by Lorca
...first 24 lines

Verde que te quiero verde.
Verde viento. Verdes ramas.
El barco somber la mar
Y el caballo en la Montana.
Con la sombra en la cintura
Ella suena ensu baranda,
Verde carne, pelo verde,
Con ojos de fria plata.
Verde que te quiero verde.
Bajo la luna gitana,
Las cosas la estan mirando
Y ella no puede mirarlas.

Verde que te quiero verde.
Grandes estrellas de escarcha
Vienen con el pez d sombra
Que abre el camino del lba.
La higuera frota su viento
Con la lija de sus ramas,
Y el money, gato garduno,
Eriza sus pitas agrias.
?Pero quien vendra? ?Y por donde...?
Ella sigue en su baranda,
Verde carne, pelo verde,
Sonando en la mar amarga.

Sleepwalking Ballad by Lorca translated by William Logan
...first 24 lines

*Green, how I want you green.
Green wind. Green branches.
The ship out on the sea
And the shade around her waist
She dreams on her balcony,
Green flesh, her hair green,
With eyes of cold silver.
Green, how I want you green.
Under the gypsy moon,
All things are watching her
And she cannot see them.*

*Green, how I want you green.
Big hoarfrost stars
Come with the fish of shadow
That opens the road of dawn.
The fig tree rubs its wind
With the sandpaper of its branches,
And the forest, cunning cat,
Bristles its brittle fibers.
But who will come? And from where?
She is still on her balcony
Green flesh, her hair green,
Dreaming in the bitter sea.*

Benny Vincifora, 5th grade: Verde looks like the water at night-azul water with verde boats and azul people.

As I Sailed by --Sedley Alpaugh, 6th grade
*The sea was Amarillo
With waves of rojo
The sun azul
And the sky gris
This was all this
As I sailed
In my verde boat.*

- Rose Where Did You Get That Red, Kenneth Koch, chapter 10 (all ages)

📖 Read aloud *Voyelles (Vowels)* by Arthur Rimbaud, in both English and French. Writing Idea: *Write a poem in which in every line you give the color of a vowel and also mention a few things that have that color. If you like you can say that these things are the origin of the colors. Use surprising (rather than ordinary) examples. Add color associations with consonants, as well as numbers. Feel free to write in both English and French.*

Voyelles --Arthur Rimbaud

*A noir, E blanc, I rouge, U vert, O bleue: voyelles,
Je dirai quelque jour vos naissances latentes:
A, noir corset velu des mouches eclatantes
Qui bombinent autour des puanteurs cruelles,*

*Golfes d'ombre; E, candeurs des vapeurs et des tentes,
Lances des glaciers fiers, rois lances, frissons d'ombelles;
I, pourpres, sang crache, rire des levres belles
Dans la colere ou les ivresses penitents;
U, cycles, vibrations divins des mers virides,
Paix des patis semes d'animaux, paix des rides
Que l'alchimie imprime aux grands fronts studieux;*

*O, supreme Clairon plein de strideurs estranges,
Silences traverses des Mondes et des Anges:
--O l'Omega, rayon violet de Ses Yeux!*

Vowels --Arthur Rimbaud translated by Kenneth Koch

*Black A, white E, red I, green U, blue O-vowels,
I'll tell, some day, your secret origins:
A, black hairy corset of dazzling flies
Who boom around cruel stenches,*

*Gulfs of darkness; E, candor of steam and of tents,
Lances of proud glaciers, white kings, Queens-Anne's
lace shivers;
I, deep reds, spit blood, laughter of beautiful lips
In anger or in drunkenness and penitence;*

*U, cycles, divine vibrations of dark green oceans,
Peacefulness of pastures dotted with animals, the peace
of wrinkles
Which alchemy prints on studios foreheads;*

*O, supreme trumpet, full of strange harsh sounds,
Silences which are crossed by Worlds and by Angels-
O, Omega, violet ray of her eyes!*

Parentheses by Mary Bowden 9th-10th grade

Le U est orange, il se trouve sur l'eau au couchant.

The A is chocolate brown and one can always see it under the bark of a rotten branch on a pine tree.

Le E est bleu pale, and sounds like a breathing cry.

I is tan, but green; snow in shadow on top of my mountain, where I found a moldy scarf.

Le O est bleu-vert comme l'eau, qui scintilla en tombant eternellement sur les durs rochers froids.

E is white with the empty depth of black; hard sheets of ice, shining in the sun.

- More homophonic inspiration for original writing: Charles Bernstein in the *Johnny Cake Hollow suite* and Lewis Carroll in the *Jabberwocky*. (all ages)
- Compose a poem or other work into a different dialect. Include lingo, slang, or text messaging using the web based dialect engine, <http://rinkworks.com/dialect/> Writing example: Nathan Kageyam's translation of Pound's *The Return* into Hawaiian Creole English. (example is adult, but the writing idea can be any age)
- What are your favorite local/regional phrases? How can they inspire a story? A poem? (any age)
- Crows and Cards by Joiseph Helferson, Wild West, 1848 adventure story (teen lit, Eugene Public Library)
- Cowboy Slang, by Edgar R. Potter. (all ages) A few entries:

Blackern' a blacksmith's apron.

That hoss looked as easy as shootin' fish in a dry lake.

Busiern' a hen drinking out of a pan.

Had no more guts than a snake had hips.

Crooked 'nough to sleep on a corkscrew.

Had on boots so fine you could see the wrinkles in his socks.

Hungry 'nough to eat a saddle blanket.

His word was as bindin' as a hangman's knot.

[To someone who's talking too much] Save part of yore breath for breathin'.

As useless as settin' a milk bucket under a bull.

- a book of Scottish words and phrases by Joanna Young. (all ages)

Baffies- Slippers.

Bampot- An idiot, fool, crazy character.

Blether- To chat or a chat.

Boak- To vomit.

Bubbly-jock- A male turkey.

Carnaptious- Irritable or cross.

Chitter- To shiver with cold.

Clishmaclaver- Idle or incessant talk, gossip.

Coorie doon- To snuggle up.

Corrie-fisted- Left-handed.

Ding doon- To rain heavily.

Fankle- A tangle or muddle.

Guddle- A mess or state of confusion.

Hirple- To limp, to walk with great difficulty.

Kenspeckle- Easily recognized, familiar.

Manky- Dirty, grubby

Mince- Nonsense.

Mingin- Having a foul odor.

Mink- A disreputable person.

Perjink Fussy about ones appearance.

Pokey-hat An ice cream cone.

Puggled- Completely exhausted.

Rammy- A brawl, a free-for-all.

Scunner- To disgust.

Snell- Bitterly cold.

Swither- To be undecided as to which course of action to choose.

Tarry-fingered- Liable to steal things.

Thirled- Pig headed.

Thunderplump- A sudden thunderstorm.

- Idiomatic expressions (all ages): YWA writing mentor, Carter McKenzie suggests responding to, being inspired by, literally translated idiomatic expressions--in what particular ways do they convey their meaning? How do they surprise? Can those whose families speak other languages think of expressions of endearment, descriptions of a change in weather, sayings, which could be the subject of a piece of writing? How do they mean? Example expressions from Scottish Gaelic:

Gagan mor ach an t-ugh beag- Much cackling for a small egg. (Empty vessels make the most noise.)

[the initial "a" in Gagan and the "o" in mor should be marked with accent grave]

Tha mi cho sona ri brog- I am as a happy as an old boot.

Piobair an aon phort- The one-tuned piper. (Someone who says the same thing over and over again.)

- Multiple translations (Russian, Korean, Spanish...) of a single poem or passage can instigate original work. Try the "Lost in Translation" "Babel" or other web-based translation engines. (teens/adults) Writing example: Bergvall's poem setting of multiple translations for a passage of Dante's Divine Comedy.
- Withering Tights by Louise Rennison, British novel, humor (teen lit, Eugene Public Library)
- Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier, a 17 year old finds friends/culture where she least expects to (teen lit, Eugene Public Library)
- From Anne Miller Youth Services Librarian

The bilingual Mice, a fable: Once upon a time, a mother mouse encouraged her children to leave home and face the wide world before them. The children ventured forth, came across a menacing cat, and scurried back home. The next day, the mother mouse persuaded her children to go out again. This time, she went with them. They came across the same menacing cat but this time, the mother mouse barked at the cat. Startled, the frightened cat ran away. Said the mother mouse to her children, "That's the advantage of being bilingual!"(Sorry, I don't have a citation for this one. It's a common little tale.)

✍ Write about your experience of learning a new language. Does it have a different feel than your native language? Does it give new meaning to an action or an object? Does it give you new ideas or ways of thinking? Describe your experience.

✍ Write about your experience being in places where people do not speak your native language. If you are bi or multi lingual, describe the differences in how it feels to speak one or the other language. How and when do you speak each?

- From Claire, Youth Services Librarian:

✍ Consult Oregon geographic names - many are in languages other than English - explore the poetry/ mystery/ familiarity/politics of a place's "naming" language -

✍ Language of flowers.... contrast with written/spoken language.... - Intensity of scent -what words do certain scents evoke?

- From Cynthia Olsen, Youth Services Manager:

A Cajun Night Before Christmas Trosclair (picture book) Eight Animals Bake a Cake Elya (picture book)

Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess (teen/adult novel)

- MORE BOOKS recommended by Anne Miller from EPL downtown

The animals: selected poems by Michio Mado; decorations by Mitsumasa Anno; translated by the Empress Michiko of Japan. (all ages)

A movie in my pillow / poems, Jorge Argueta; illustrations, Elizabeth Gómez, Salvadoran (Children's poetry)

The Hebrew letters tell their story / verse, Reudor; art, Jack Knight, Reudor, Burt Griswold. (Juvenile poetry)

Subway sparrow / Leyla Torres. Summary: Although the passengers of the D train speak different languages, they work together to rescue a frightened bird. (Juvenile fiction)

The Dancer / by Fred Burstein; illustrated by Joan Auclair. Summary: A little girl and her father walk through the city on the way to her ballet class. Brief text in English, Spanish, and Japanese Juvenile fiction

Beautiful Yetta: the Yiddish chicken / by Daniel Pinkwater; illustrated by Jill Pinkwater. Summary: Yetta, the beautiful chicken, breaks free from the truck that is carrying her to market. She quickly realizes the big city is nothing like the chicken farm. She is scared and confused until she meets and saves the life of a little, green parrot. (Juvenile fiction)

I know the river loves me / Maya Christina Gonzalez Summary: A girl expresses her love of the river that she visits, plays in, and cares for throughout the year (Juvenile)

My Diary from Here to There / story, Amada Irma Pérez; illustrations, Maya Christina Gonzalez Summary: A young girl describes her feelings when her father decides to leave their home in Mexico to look for work in the United States. (Juvenile)

A Perfect Season for Dreaming Illustrated by Esau Andrade. Author: Sáenz, Benjamin Alire Summary: Seventy-two-year-old Octavio Rivera has been visited by some very interesting dreams--dreams about piñatas that spill their treasures before him revealing kissing turtles, winged pigs, hitchhiking armadillos and many more fantastic things. (Juvenile fiction)

Prietita and the Ghost Woman / story by Gloria Anzaldúa; pictures by Cristina Gonzalez. Summary: Prietita, a young Mexican American girl, becomes lost in her search for an herb to cure her mother and is aided by the legendary ghost woman (Juvenile fiction)

Waiting for the BiblioBurro / Monica Brown; illustrations by John Parra. Summary: When a man brings to a remote village two burros, Alfa and Beto, loaded with books the children can borrow, Ana's excitement leads her to write a book of her own as she waits for the BibliBurro to return. Includes glossary of Spanish terms and a note on the true story of Columbia's BiblioBurro and mobile libraries in other countries (Juvenile fiction)

Mrs. Katz and Tush / Patricia Polacco. Summary: A long-lasting friendship develops between Larnel, a young African-American, and Mrs. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, when Larnel presents Mrs. Katz with a scrawny kitten without a tail. Series: Reading rainbow book Juvenile fiction

The Smartest Woman I Know, Ilene Beckerman writes about her Jewish grandmother (teen/adult)

A Few Words In the Mother Tongue, Poems Selected and New, Irena Klepfisz, *Fradel Shtok* (pp.228) (teen/adult)