



## TRANSLANGUAGING AND POETRY

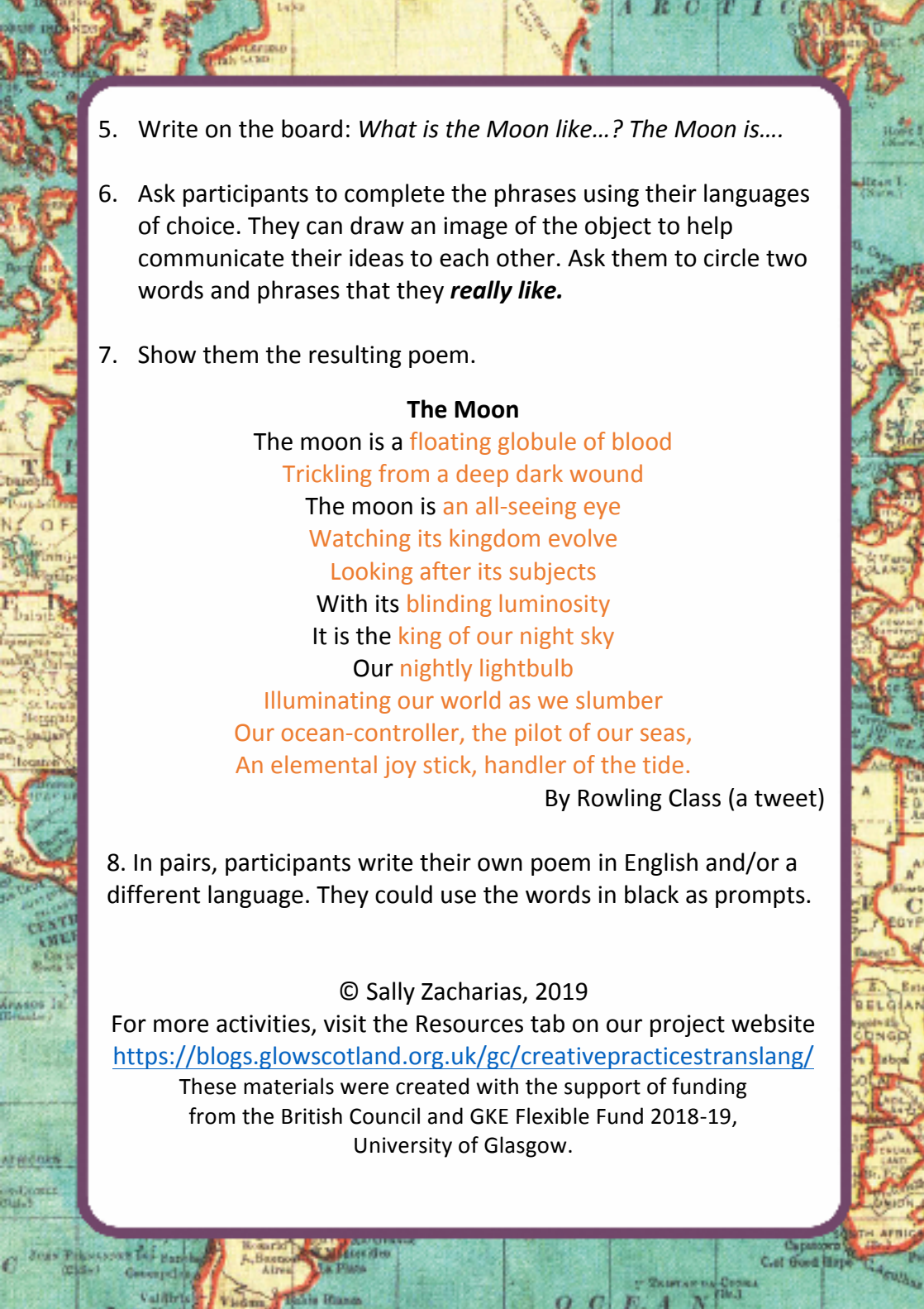
Poetry can be a good way to encourage students to share words they love. Some of these words might feel for some learners 'untranslatable'. Why not use this phenomenon as an opportunity for exploration of languages and creativity? This activity encourages learners to translanguage whilst writing a poem.

### ACTIVITY

The Moon is a great subject for a translingual poem as it has been a source of wonder for all cultures around the globe. Yet, each culture has its own set of Moon stories to tell and its own language to describe and explain it.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each participant a picture of the Moon depicting a different aspect of it, e.g. the Moon and the sea, a crescent, etc.
2. Give the same picture to two different participants (make two copies of the same picture). Participants shouldn't show each other their pictures.
3. In a language of their choice, they describe to each other their picture as they walk around the classroom. The bigger the mix of languages the better as they'll have to try to work out what the other is saying. The aim is to find the participant with the same picture. (idea from "JorisEAL 'Multilingual grouping' 23.02.19)
4. When the participants find their peer with the same picture, pairs sit down together.

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5. Write on the board: *What is the Moon like...? The Moon is...*
  6. Ask participants to complete the phrases using their languages of choice. They can draw an image of the object to help communicate their ideas to each other. Ask them to circle two words and phrases that they **really like**.
  7. Show them the resulting poem.

### The Moon

The moon is a **floating globule of blood**  
Trickling from a deep dark wound  
The moon is an **all-seeing eye**  
Watching its kingdom evolve  
Looking after its subjects  
With its **blinding luminosity**  
It is the **king of our night sky**  
Our **nightly lightbulb**  
Illuminating our world as we slumber  
Our ocean-controller, the pilot of our seas,  
An elemental joy stick, handler of the tide.

By Rowling Class (a tweet)

8. In pairs, participants write their own poem in English and/or a different language. They could use the words in black as prompts.

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For more activities, visit the Resources tab on our project website  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/creativepracticestranslang/>

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