

# Lullabies – Worksheet 3b

## GROUP B – YANNIS RITSOS

Apart from the traditional lullabies there are others that have been written by some very famous poets, who were inspired by the tradition.



On the next page you are going to find the English translation of a poem written by the famous poet Yannis Ritsos.

Read it carefully and then choose one of the traditional lullabies your group members have brought and uploaded on the fifth column of the **padlet** (<https://padlet.com/mepr4/27lz5wxsf8kr>) Then fill in the table and be ready to discuss the following questions:

	Traditional lullaby from .....	Lullaby by .....
Circumstances under which it was written:		
Tone and register of the poem:		
Content:		
Figures of speech:		

- What are the similarities and what are the differences between the two lullabies?
- Do we have a few or a lot of similarities between the two lullabies? Why or why not?
- Look for verses from the two lullabies that are thematically or stylistically related and tell them to the other groups.

## **Yannis Ritsos**

### **Morning Star**

*To my daughter Eri*

*My little girl, I want to bring you,  
the lanterns of the lilies  
to bring you light in your sleep*

*I want to bring you  
a little orchard,  
tinted with flower dust  
on a butterfly wing  
to roam around your cerulean dream*

*I want to bring you  
a little cross of morning light  
two rays crossed by my verses  
to ward off evil  
to light you  
so that you don't trip over, little girl,  
barefoot and tender,*

*Sleep.*

*And may you grow up fast*

*You have a long way to go, little girl,  
and you only have a pair of heavenly sandals.*

*Sleep.*

*Your mother's face shines*

*over your sleep's rosy hills*

*vernal moon*

*among the whea of her concern*

*and the roses of my songs.*

*Sleep little girl*

*It's a long way to go*

*You have to grow up*

*It's a long*

*Long*

*Long way [...]*

**Activity 2**

- i) Now that you have seen the **power point**, the **flipbook** and the **video** of the three poems, what similarities and what differences can you spot among the lullabies by Hikmet, by Ritsos and by Lorca?

What are the reasons why the three poems are different?

- ii) With the members of your group, write a small paragraph discussing the following question on the lullaby that you can find on your worksheet:

**What does the writer want to give to his newborn daughter and why does he choose the particular “gifts”?**

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**Activity 3**



Now it's time to be creative and have some fun! Let's create lullabies in different forms!

Each group is going to select a form of a lullaby, that does not necessarily have to be a poem. You can, for example, create a goodnight story, a poster that is going to be placed in a baby's room to help it sleep calmly, a card to be given as a present to your little brother or sister, or ..... anything else you can think of!

Your finished creations can be uploaded on the last column of the padlet under the heading "Creativity time" (<https://padlet.com/mepr4/27lz5wxsf8kr>).

# *Homework*

1) Choose one of the two options:

- If you had to write a lullaby to a child, what would you wish for him or her? Justify your choices.
- Let's reverse the situation. You are the kid for which the lullaby is intended. Write a text (prose or poem) addressing your parents, in which you express your ideas on how you want them to behave towards you, in order to become the person described by the lullabies you have studied.

2) To evaluate the lessons we just had, I'd like you to fill in the questionnaire in <https://forms.gle/o7aTufxFVuUVxtpq7>