

AP English Literature and Composition
Comparative translation: *Anna Karenina*

Compare and contrast the two renderings of this passage from Part II, Chapter 15. Consider the perspective of Levin and the depiction of Laska, and/or related elements of diction, punctuation, and syntax in the creation of the passages' overall effects. Isolate the overall effects first, and then discuss how the passages create the effects. Have a thesis statement that ties together your overall argument—which should be coherent and balanced as a whole—and then compare and contrast tenet by tenet or translation by translation.

Rosamund Bartlett:

In the spells of complete silence the thawing earth and growing grass could be heard making last year's leaves rustle.

"How about that! You can see and hear the grass growing!" Levin said to himself, noticing a wet, slate-coloured aspen leaf stirring beside a blade of young grass. He stood there, listening and gazing down the wet mossy ground, at the attentive Laska, at the sea of bare treetops which stretched out before him at the foot of the hill, and at the darkening sky, which was covered with strips of white cloud. High above the distant forest a hawk flew over, flapping its wings slowly; another one just like it flew in the same direction and disappeared. The birds were twittering more and more loudly and busily in the thicket. Not far off an eagle-owl hooted, and Laska gave a start, took a few cautious steps, and put her head on one side, listening intently.

Marian Schwartz:

In the intervals of utter quiet he could hear the rustle of last year's leaves, stirring with the earth thawing and the grass growing.

"Imagine! I can hear and see the grass growing!" Levin told himself, having noticed a wet aspen leaf the color of slate shifting under a blade of young grass. He stood there listening and looking down at the wet, mossy earth, at sharp-eared Laska, at the sea of bare treetops spread over the slope below, at the dimming sky masked with white bands of clouds. A hawk, lazily flapping its wings, crossed high above the distant woods; another crossed in exactly the same way, in the same direction, and was lost from view. The birds chirped more and more loudly and restlessly in the thicket. Not far away, an owl hooted, and Laska, shuddering, took a few cautious steps, cocked her head to one side, and listened closely.