

Poem IV:
Voyage

Exercise IV.1:

Read “Voyage” aloud. Listen for the several repeating aspects of the poem. Think about the significance of the repeating line, in terms of the content and sense of the poem, and in the formal structure. Tafolla asserts that she is the “fourth ship.” She is using a metaphor to say that she is like a sailing ship in some way, but also that she is an unknown quantity, capable of new and unexpected actions.

Create a single-phrase metaphor for yourself. Carry it around in your mind for several days. Try repeating it in time with your walking. Keep notes of the phrases that come up naturally to go along with it. Gather the phrases that accumulate and write a poem that says who *you* really are.

— Exercise provided by Kamala Platt, author of *On the Line*