

Poem VII:  
*La Malinche*

Exercise VII.2:

Like “Voyage,” Carmen Tafolla’s “La Malinche” rewrites a familiar story from Spain’s *encuentro* with the Americas from a perspective that is often unheard. Arguably, the most prominent woman of that *encuentro* narrates “La Malinche.” How is this narrator’s identity important to building the poem? What names do others give her? How have the meanings of these names changed since the poem was written (in the late 1970s)? What names does she give herself? Overall, how do languages (at least three) and naming figure in this poem?

Write a poem that sees history (long ago, not-so-long ago, yesterday) from the margins, from a perspective not likely to be found in a history book or newspaper. Find and use words from languages that represent those perspectives.

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