

Poem VI:

Mujeres del Rebozo Rojo

Exercise VI.1:

“Mujeres del Rebozo Rojo” could be described as an infinite exclamation, a sunrise anthropomorphized, a brilliant visual image with resonating audible alliteration, rhyme and rhythm—or, it could be a very specific cultural statement about a group of women who wear a particular color of shawl. How would *you* describe this poem? Does it speak more clearly to women than men? Does it matter if the reader is a bilingual person? Would an artist appreciate this poem better or more fully than a non-artist?

Freewrite a response for ten to fifteen minutes, but focus on one physical thing—an article of clothing, a walking stick, a tool, anything that you associate closely with a particular person. Then, look over what you have written, and analyze the feelings and observations the poem aroused. Choose one aspect of what you have produced and craft your own poem.

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