what is a word  
o yes  
yes it is a concatenation of consonants and vowels latinate a mouthful  
or it is simple solid and old as stone it is the bedrock at the beginning and end of my life  
a word is the hip bone of a poem and without its particular cadence everything stumbles to a halt  
a word is an entrance into somewhere wonderful it is a passage into pain and out again

in group we get talking about red such a gigantic single syllable to grasp it we discuss russia after the tzars the perils of working the streets the merits of hysterectomy versus having your tubes tied and wolves of course in grandmothers' clothing

and sure enough i see that one digging out a pencil and writing it down red and drawing a circle around it she grins a bit (absent already) and dissociates for the rest of the afternoon

i hope she is somewhere utterly summer and bleeding only with the moon

what is a word alone or in a flock so simple and where one goes they all go rushing after into any danger or disaster

wolves of course in grandmothers' clothing

Marg Yeo has published six volumes of poetry. Her most recent collection, Getting Wise, was published by Gynergy Press in 1990.