

# If we left Cuba, we can leave anything.

*by Dulce Maria Menendez*

The *chivatos* called us *gusanos*  
because we left with large  
green duffle bags filled with  
only personal belongings.

They were *chivatos* because  
they followed Fidel and like  
goats ran at the mouth whenever  
someone was not loyal  
to the new regime.

*Gusanos* they said  
were spineless.

And so we left  
not looking back  
and settled like  
pioneers and took refuge  
and like worms we dug  
ourselves deeper  
into the land  
penetrating to  
new territories  
while the *chivatos*  
stayed in Cuba  
until the day came  
when there was  
no way out  
except to swim

with the sharks.

And when we met them  
in the streets of Miami,  
we never apologized.

