

MARY AUSTIN SPEAKER

*Names of the Spade*

A tool for digging. Simple machine, lever, bearer of earth. Smoother of the final sentence of land, architect of permanence. Upsetter, rude awakener, policer of interlopers on the private sphere. Coastal occupant, seasonal friend of children. Catalyst of early violence. Soil-knife, separator of root from root. Earnest arbiter of reproduction, blunt usher of seed. See also trowel. See shovel. Hollower of graves. Furnisher of emptiness, a void, into which anything might rush and flourish.