

Directions

Read this poem. Then do Numbers 101 through 109. You may look back at the poem as often as you like.

ONE ADOBE AT A TIME

We coiled each row with mud bricks,
lifting,
 measuring,
 shaping one adobe at a time.

This earth vessel
 rounded into rooms
 we raise our children in.

Staggered bricks of straw
 mud and sand
 like the Towa¹ before us
 who sculpted
 their own shelters
 upward
 in basic

 uneven layers
 one adobe at a time.

In our vessel
 there are thousands of adobes
 anchored to a solid bed of concrete,
 evenly distributing the weight
 of walls seventeen feet high.

Greg designed
 our cradle of packed earth,
 keeping with the adobe tradition
 of simple,
 wavering lines,
 that move quietly,
 curving in and out of rooms
 one after another.

Plastering,
 molding
 and repacking
 an endless supply of bricks,
 until our mud shell
 stood upright
 massive
 and invincible.

by Nora Naranjo-Morse

Sounds easily surrender
 to walls absorbing
 the details of our lives.
Coughs from sick children
 romantic whispers
 and heated debates,
 all digested into
 porous layers of mortar.

I shake my head thinking,
 "Only earth mother
 would permit such a burden,
 allowing us to dig foundations
 into her skin
 and forgiving us the weight
 of tons and tons of mass,
 yet, holding us safe and steady."
Our vessel made from
 her brown
 solid skin.
 Earth mother,
 giving all that she is,
 one adobe at a time.

¹Towa: people

SESSION 6 Reading
ONE ADOBE AT A TIME
Item 108 (Page 70)

Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

Key Elements

- thousands of handmade bricks/an endless supply of bricks
- bricks made from mud/sand/straw
- plastering/molding/repacking an endless supply of bricks
- walls uneven/curved/thick/seventeen feet high
- foundation solid/concrete
- walls absorb sound and provide shelter
- weight evenly distributed
- structure upright/strong/massive/invincible
- coughs/whispers/debates digested into porous layers
- "This earth vessel / rounded into rooms / we raise our children in."
- other relevant text-based detail

Score Points

- 3 points** Response is a complete and accurate description of the adobe house and is supported by relevant, text-based information that describes the adobe structure.
- 2 points** Response is a general description of the adobe house and is supported by little relevant, text-based information that describes the adobe structure.
- 1 point** Response is a limited description of the adobe house and includes irrelevant or no text-based information.
- 0 points** other

Rubric - @W
Jed
4/10/07

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 8

Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

Benchmark 4.e: Analyze the text's main idea and use relevant details to support the analysis.

Subcontent Area: Poetry

108

Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

A house made from mud bricks and earth. The walls of the structure is 17 feet high. Brick made from straws are also use and rooms inside the structure is made. Wavering lines move in and out of rooms. The house structure is made from mud bricks and are describe as being strong.

8 Reading
Item 108
3 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides a complete and accurate description of the house and is supported by many relevant details.

Anchor
3pt
JSD
4/10/07

108

Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

a mud-brick house with gentle curves that muffles sound.

8 Reading
Item 108
2 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides a general description with little text-based information.

Anchor
2pt
JD
4/10/07

108

Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

That the adobe wall has to be
17 ft. high.

8 Reading
Item 108
1 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides a limited description of
the adobe house.

Anchor
1 pt.
JP
4/10/07

108

Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

A stone home lived in for some time then it falls apart from the weather, and earthquakes or something of that matter.

8 Reading
Item 108
0 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides no description of the adobe home and no relevant details.

Anchor
opt.
JP
4/10/07

SESSION 6 Reading
ONE ADOBE AT A TIME
Item 109 (Page 70)

Write two more metaphors from the poem. Explain what each metaphor represents.

Example:

The metaphor "this earth vessel" refers to the adobe house.

Exemplary Responses

- The metaphor "our mud shell" refers to the adobe house.
- The metaphor "cradle of packed earth" refers to the adobe house.
- The metaphor "brown, solid skin" refers to the Earth's surface.
- The metaphor "earth mother" refers to the Earth.

Score Points

- 2 points** Response includes two metaphors with the accurate meanings.
1 point Response includes one metaphor with an accurate meaning.
0 points Other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 8

Standard 6: Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience

Benchmark 6.b: Apply literary terminology and knowledge of literary techniques (including, but not limited to, setting, protagonist, antagonist, point of view, foreshadowing, personification, and flashback) to understand text

Subcontent Area: Poetry

109

Write two more metaphors from the poem. Explain what each metaphor represents.

Example: The metaphor "this earth vessel" represents the adobe house.

- 1) "our mud shell" represents the adobe house.
- 2) "earth mother" represents the earth.

8 Reading
Item 109
2 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides two metaphors
with the accurate meanings.

Anchor
2 pts.
JED
4/10/07

109

Write two more metaphors from the poem. Explain what each metaphor represents.

Example: The metaphor "this earth vessel" represents the adobe house.

- 1) mud shell represents the adobe house, too.
- 2) like the Towa represents the people.

8 Reading
Item 109
1 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides one metaphor with an accurate meaning. "Mud shell" representing the adobe house is correct.

Anchor
1 pt.
jso
4/10/07

109

Write two more metaphors from the poem. Explain what each metaphor represents.

Example: The metaphor "this earth vessel" represents the adobe house.

1) "solid bed of concrete" represents the walls.

2) "mud shell" represents the layers.

8 Reading
Item 109
0 POINT BACK UP ANCHOR
Response provides one metaphor ("mud shell") with an incorrect meaning and an incorrect metaphor ("solid bed of concrete").

Anchor
0 pts.
JEO
4/10/07