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 Towa 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

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
A house made from mud bricks and earth. The walls of the structure is 17 feet high. Bricks made from straws are also used 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.
Write a description of the adobe structure. Use details from the poem to support your description.

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

8 Reading
Item 108
2 POINT ANCHOR
Response provides a general description with little text-based information.
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.
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.
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
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.
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.
4/10/07
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 towers.

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.
Jed
4/10/07