

Ingrid de Kok
Small Passing
More questions to test you!

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Ingrid de Kok is the professional name of Ingrid Jean Fiske. She was born in Johannesburg in 1951 and grew up in Stilfontein, a gold mining town in what is now the North-West Province of South Africa. She studied at Queens' University in Canada before returning to South Africa. Today she is an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town's Centre for Extra-Mural Studies.

To date she has published three collections of poetry and her poems have appeared in at least eleven overseas anthologies. They have also been translated into several different languages, including Turkish. She has been the recipient of at least three prestigious prizes for her contribution to English Literature.

1. "Girls carrying babies
not much smaller than themselves.
Erosion. Soil washed down to the sea."
 - The poet deviates from references to people and speaks suddenly about soil erosion. What is the reason for deviating from references to people? (4)
 - Explain why the image of soil erosion can be regarded as a metaphor. (4)
 - Why would girls be carrying babies not much smaller than themselves? (4)

2. "Come with us to the place of mothers.
We will stroke your flat empty belly,
let you weep with us in the dark,
and arm you with one of our babies
to carry home on your back."
 - What colour will this baby be? How do you know? (3)
 - What is the significance of this offer? (4)

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