

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“explain the author’s purpose and message within a text”

“compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry, using genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Published texts are real stories written by real authors and published for the world to read.

An author writes with a purpose, and the author’s message is the idea the story teaches.

When I study what an author did, I can try that same craft in my own writing.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

A Character Who Speaks the Lesson

from “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” (Aesop, 1867)

In this fable the Country Mouse speaks the message at the very end. He tells us that safety is worth more than fancy food. This week we read a published fable, notice the character’s final words, and try writing a character who states the lesson.

This deck teaches **author craft and composition** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Read the published fable (excerpt).

This excerpt shows the ending of the fable. Read it, then read it again. Listen for the sentence where the Country Mouse states the author's message.

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse (excerpt)

Just as they were beginning to eat, someone opened the door, and they both ran off squeaking, as fast as they could, to a hole so narrow that two could only find room in it by squeezing. They had scarcely begun their repast again when someone else entered to take something out of a cupboard, whereupon the two Mice, more frightened than before, ran away and hid themselves. At last the Country Mouse, almost famished, said to his friend:

“Although you have prepared for me so dainty a feast, I must leave you to enjoy it by yourself. It is surrounded by too many dangers to please me. I prefer my bare plowlands and roots from the hedgerow, where I can live in safety, and without fear.”

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Aesop's Fables, translated by George Fyler Townsend, published 1867 (public domain)

I CAN | I can read a published fable and find the sentence where a character states the author's message.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice the message the character states at the end."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

"explain the author's purpose and message within a text"

"compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry, using genre characteristics and craft"

Notice the message.

Read the Country Mouse's final words. Find the sentence that states the author's message.

"I prefer my bare plowlands and roots from the hedgerow,"
"where I can live in safety, and without fear."

I CAN | I can notice the message a character states at the end of the fable.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the sentence that best states the author’s message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“explain the author’s purpose and message within a text”

“compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry, using genre characteristics and craft”

Choose the message.

Which sentence best states the author’s message? Use the story to decide.

A “I prefer my bare plowlands and roots from the hedgerow, where I can live in safety, and without fear.”

B “They both ran off squeaking, as fast as they could.”

C “They both ran off squeaking, as fast as they could, to a hole so narrow that two could only find room in it by squeezing.”

I CAN | I can choose the sentence that best states the author’s message.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

"I can show how the story proves the message."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

"explain the author's purpose and message within a text"

"compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry, using genre characteristics and craft"

Show how the story proves the message.

How do the dangers in the town prove the Country Mouse's message about safety?

"They had scarcely begun their repast again when **someone else entered...
the two Mice, more frightened than before, **ran away and hid.**"**

"I prefer my bare plowlands... where I can live in safety, and without fear."

I CAN | I can explain how the story's details lead to the author's message.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a message where a character chooses safety over something fancy.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“explain the author’s purpose and message within a text”

“compose literary texts, including personal narratives and poetry, using genre characteristics and craft”

Own it. Try the craft move.

Write what this character says at the end. Let the character state the message, the way the Country Mouse did.

A small fish visited a coral reef full of bright colors and new food. But every time she ate, a bigger fish chased her away. At last she swam home and said:

I CAN | I can write a message where a character chooses something simple and safe.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why the author lets the character who learned the lesson state the message."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

"explain the author's purpose and message within a text"

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Defend the author's choice.

The narrator could have stated the lesson. Why is it stronger when the Country Mouse speaks it?

"I prefer my bare plowlands and roots from the hedgerow, where I can live in safety, and without fear."

The character who lived the danger speaks the message. Why does that make it stronger?

I CAN

I can defend why the author lets the character who lived the story state the lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own fable.

Choose an animal who visits a new place and finds it exciting but dangerous. End by letting the animal state the message.

Choose an animal who visits somewhere exciting but dangerous.

Show the danger.

End by letting the animal state the lesson in its own words.

I CAN | I can write my own story and let the character who learned the lesson state the message.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “I prefer my bare plowlands and roots from the hedgerow, where I can live in safety, and without fear.” The Country Mouse states the message at the end.

CHOOSE **A.** B tells what happens (running away), and C describes the action of squeezing into the hole. A is the sentence that teaches the lesson.

SHOW Every time the mice tried to eat, someone opened a door and they ran. The repeated danger proves that safety matters more than fancy food.

OWN Answers vary. One example: The fish said, “**I would rather eat plain food in my own pond, where nothing chases me.**”

DEFEND The Country Mouse felt the danger himself. He earned the right to state the lesson. A character who lived the experience makes the message feel real.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A rabbit visited a garden full of carrots, but a dog chased her every time. She went home and said, “**My own patch is small, but I eat in peace.**”

PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE TWO POTS” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“A River carried down in its stream two Pots, one made of earthenware and the other of brass. The Earthen Pot said to the Brass Pot, ‘Pray keep at a distance and do not come near me, for if you touch me ever so slightly, I shall be broken in pieces, and besides, I by no means wish to come near you.’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Rivers are dangerous for things that float.
- B** Friends who are not equals can end up hurting each other.
- C** Brass is always stronger than clay.
- D** Pots should travel together for safety.



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The answer is B.

A Rivers are dangerous for things that float.

The river is just the setting that carries them together. The message is about the two pots, not about rivers.

B Friends who are not equals can end up hurting each other.

Correct.

The Earthen Pot is fragile and the Brass Pot is strong. If they touch, only the Earthen Pot gets hurt. The author teaches that unequal companions can be dangerous for the weaker one.

C Brass is always stronger than clay.

That is a fact about materials, not the message. The message is about what happens when unequal friends get too close.

D Pots should travel together for safety.

The story shows the opposite. The Earthen Pot asks to stay apart because being close is the danger.

