

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

Turning the Ordinary into Something Extraordinary

from “The Land of Counterpane” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

A poet can turn a bed and some toys into a whole country. Stevenson shows a child who is in bed and imagines the blankets as hills and the sheets as seas. This week we notice how the poet transforms ordinary things through imagination.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



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Read the published poem.

The Land of Counterpane

When I was sick and lay a-bed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay,
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go,
With different uniforms and drills,
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets
All up and down among the sheets;
Or brought my trees and houses out,
And planted cities all about.

I was the giant great and still
That sits upon the pillow-hill,
And sees before him, dale and plain,
The pleasant land of counterpane.

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson, published 1885 (public domain)

I CAN | I can read a published text and notice the author's craft move.

PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice where the poet turns an ordinary thing into something extraordinary."

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 transformation.

Find a line where the poet turns something ordinary into something extraordinary.

"Among the bed-clothes, through the hills"
The blankets become hills. The sheets become a country.

I CAN | I can notice the craft move the author uses.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that best shows the transformation.”

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 strongest transformation.

Which line best shows an ordinary thing becoming something new?

A “I was the giant great and still / That sits upon the pillow-hill”

B “I had two pillows at my head”

C “When I was sick and lay a-bed”

I CAN | I can choose the best example of the craft move.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how a word or image transforms something ordinary into something extraordinary.”

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 transformation works.

How does calling himself “the giant great and still” change how the reader sees the child?

“I was the **giant great and still**”

“That sits upon the **pillow-hill**”

I CAN | I can explain how the craft move works in the story.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write lines that turn an ordinary place into something extraordinary.”

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.

Pick an ordinary place (your desk, a bathtub, a closet). Write two lines that transform it into something extraordinary.

My desk is _____ and I am _____.

I CAN | I can try the craft move in my own writing.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why turning ordinary things into something extraordinary makes a poem stronger."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Defend the poet's choice.

The poet could have said "I played with my toys in bed." Why is the transformation stronger?

"The pleasant land of counterpane."

A counterpane is just a blanket. Why does calling it a land make the poem come alive?

I CAN | I can defend why the author chose this craft move.



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Write your own transformation poem.

Pick an ordinary place. Use your imagination to turn it into somewhere extraordinary, the way Stevenson turned his bed into a country.

**Pick an ordinary place you know well.
Name what is really there (pillows, blankets, toys).
Transform each thing into something bigger and more
exciting.**

I CAN | I can write my own poem that transforms an ordinary place into something extraordinary.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The poet turns “**bed-clothes**” into “**hills**” and himself into “**the giant great and still.**” Ordinary things become a whole country.

CHOOSE **A.** The child as a giant is the strongest transformation. B and C describe the real setting without transforming it.

SHOW Calling himself a giant makes the reader see the child as powerful, not small and sick. The pillow becomes a hill, and the whole bed becomes a kingdom.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “**My desk is a castle wall, and I am the queen who guards the gate.**”

DEFEND Saying “I played with toys” is flat. Turning the bed into a land lets the reader enter the imagination. The transformation is what makes the poem a poem.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: “**The bathtub is an ocean wide, and I am captain of the tide.**”



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READ THIS POEM • FROM “IF ALL WERE RAIN” BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1872)

**“If all were rain and never sun,
No bow could span the hill;
If all were sun and never rain,
There’d be no rainbow still.”**

What message does the poet want the reader to understand?

- A** Rain is more important than sunshine.
- B** Rainbows only appear on hilltops.
- C** Children should play outside in all weather.
- D** You need both hard times and good times to make something beautiful.

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The answer is D.

A Rain is more important than sunshine.
The poem says you need both. Neither one is more important.

B Rainbows only appear on hilltops.
The poem uses the hill as a setting, not as a science fact about rainbows.

C Children should play outside in all weather.
The poem never mentions children or playing. It is about needing both rain and sun.

D You need both hard times and good times to make something beautiful.
Correct.
The poet says you need rain AND sun for a rainbow. Neither one alone is enough. The message is that both are needed.

