

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

Gratitude in a Poem

from “The Cow” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

A poet can show gratitude by describing what someone gives. Stevenson thanks the cow by naming each gift and painting a picture of her life. This week we notice how listing what someone gives is a way to say thank you in a poem.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published poem.

Read it aloud slowly. Notice how the poet shows gratitude by naming what the cow gives.

The Cow

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,

All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;

And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice how the poet shows gratitude."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Notice the gratitude.

Find the line where the poet names what the cow gives.

"She gives me **cream** with all her might,"

"To eat with **apple-tart**."

I CAN | I can notice how the poet shows gratitude by naming what someone gives.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

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

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the strongest gratitude.

Which line best shows the poet’s thankfulness?

A “She wanders lowing here and there”

B “And blown by all the winds that pass”

C “The friendly cow all red and white, / I love with all my heart”

I CAN | I can choose the line that best shows gratitude.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how naming gifts creates a feeling of thanks.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how the naming works.

How does naming cream and apple-tart make the reader feel the poet’s gratitude?

“I love with all my heart”
“She gives me cream with all her might”

I CAN | I can show how naming specific gifts creates a feeling of thanks.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a gratitude poem.”

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 two lines that thank someone or something by naming what they give, the way Stevenson thanked the cow.

The friendly _____ ,
I love with all my heart:
_____ gives me _____ ,
To _____ .

I CAN | I can write lines that show gratitude by naming gifts.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why naming gifts is stronger than just saying thank you."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the poet's choice.

The poet could have just written "I am thankful for the cow." Why does naming cream and apple-tart work better?

**"She gives me cream with all her might, / To eat with apple-tart."
Why does naming the specific gift make the gratitude feel real?**

I CAN | I can defend why naming gifts makes gratitude feel real.



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Write your own gratitude poem.

Choose something or someone you are grateful for. Name the specific gifts they give, the way Stevenson named cream and apple-tart.

Choose something or someone you are grateful for.
Name the specific gifts they give.
Show your gratitude through what they do for you.

I CAN | I can write my own poem that shows gratitude by naming gifts.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The poet names “**cream**” and “**apple-tart.**” Those are the specific gifts that show the poet’s gratitude.

CHOOSE C. “I love with all my heart” states the gratitude directly. B and C describe the cow’s life but do not show thanks.

SHOW Naming cream and apple-tart makes the gift real and specific. The reader can taste the gratitude instead of just hearing it.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “**The friendly tree all tall and green, / I love with all my heart: / It gives me shade on summer days, / A cool and quiet part.**”

DEFEND Saying “thank you” is quick and forgettable. Naming the cream, the tart, the meadow, and the flowers makes the reader feel each gift. The naming IS the gratitude.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: “**The friendly oven, warm and wide, / I love with all my heart: / It gives me bread with golden crust, / And cinnamon apple tart.**”



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READ THIS POEM · FROM “TIME TO RISE” BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1885)

**“A birdie with a yellow bill
Hopped upon my window sill,
Cocked his shining eye and said:
‘Ain’t you ‘shamed, you sleepy-head!’”**

Why does the poet let the bird speak instead of just saying it is time to wake up?

- A** To teach the reader what birds say.
- B** To make the wake-up call playful and fun.
- C** To show that birds are smarter than people.
- D** To explain why children sleep late.



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The answer is B.

A To teach the reader what birds say.

Birds do not actually speak English. The poet gives the bird words to make the moment playful.

B To make the wake-up call playful and fun.

Correct.

The bird's teasing voice makes getting up feel like a game instead of an order. The personification turns a boring moment into a poem.

C To show that birds are smarter than people.

The poem is not comparing intelligence. The bird is a playful character, not a teacher.

D To explain why children sleep late.

The poem does not explain why. It shows a fun way of being woken up.

