

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

Questions That Create Wonder

from “Is the Moon Tired?” by Christina Rossetti (1872)

A poet can create a feeling of wonder by asking questions instead of stating facts. Rossetti asks if the moon is tired and describes what the moon does. The questions invite the reader to look up and wonder. This week we notice how questions create a mood.

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.

Read it aloud slowly. Notice how the poet asks questions instead of stating facts.

Is the Moon Tired?

Is the moon tired? she looks so pale
Within her misty veil:
She scales the sky from east to west,
And takes no rest.

Before the coming of the night
The moon shows papery white;
Before the dawning of the day
She fades away.

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From *Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book* by Christina Rossetti, published 1872 (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 the question the poet asks to create wonder.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the question.

Find the question that opens the poem. What feeling does it create?

“Is the moon tired?”

“she looks so pale / Within her misty veil”

I CAN | I can notice how the poet uses a question to create wonder.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that creates the most wonder.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the most wondering line.

Which line makes the reader wonder the most?

A “Is the moon tired? she looks so pale”

B “She scales the sky from east to west”

C “Before the dawning of the day”

I CAN | I can choose the line that creates the most wonder.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the question makes the reader wonder.”

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Show how the question works.

How does asking “Is the moon tired?” change how the reader sees the moon?

“Is the moon **tired? she looks so **pale**”**

The question makes the reader look up and wonder. Why?

I CAN | I can show how a question changes the way the reader sees something.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a question that creates wonder.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Write a question about something in nature, then describe what you see that makes you wonder.

Is the _____ ? It looks so _____.

I CAN | I can write a question that creates wonder about something in nature.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why a question is stronger than a statement.”

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Defend the poet’s choice.

The poet could have said “The moon is tired.” Why does the question work better?

“Is the moon tired?” (question)

“The moon is tired.” (statement) Which one makes the reader look up and think?

I CAN

I can defend why a question creates more wonder than a statement.



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Write your own wonder poem.

Choose something in nature. Open with a question, then describe what you see that makes you wonder.

Open with a question about something in nature.
Describe what you see that makes you wonder.
Let the question stay unanswered, the way Rossetti did.

I CAN | I can write my own poem that creates wonder through questions.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “Is the moon tired?” The question opens the poem and makes the reader look up and wonder.

CHOOSE **A.** The question + “pale” create the most wonder. B and C describe but do not ask.

SHOW Asking “Is the moon tired?” treats the moon like a person who might need rest. The reader starts imagining and wondering, which is the craft move.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “Is the sun lonely? It shines so bright, alone up in the empty sky.”

DEFEND A statement tells the reader what to think. A question invites the reader to wonder. The reader who wonders keeps thinking long after the poem ends.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: “Is the river lost? It wanders on and on, through the woods, past the town, and never stops to rest.”



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READ THIS POEM • FROM “HOW MANY SECONDS IN A MINUTE?” BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1872)

“How many seconds in a minute?

Sixty, and no more in it.

How many minutes in an hour?

Sixty for sun and shower.

How many hours in a day?

Twenty-four for work and play.”

Why does the poet answer each question right away instead of leaving them open?

- A** To teach the reader how to read a clock.
- B** To show that the poet knows more than the reader.
- C** To create a rhythm that feels like a clock ticking.
- D** To explain why days feel long.



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The answer is C.

- A To teach the reader how to read a clock.**
The poem uses time as material for rhythm, not as a math lesson.
- B To show that the poet knows more than the reader.**
The answers are common knowledge. The poet is not showing off. The purpose is rhythm.
- C To create a rhythm that feels like a clock ticking.**
Correct.
Each question and answer pair clicks along like seconds and minutes. The rhythm IS the craft move. The poem sounds like time passing.
- D To explain why days feel long.**
The poem does not say days feel long. It counts time with a steady beat.

