

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 Contradiction That Reveals the Truth

from “The Man and the Satyr” (Aesop, 1867)

Some fables use a contradiction to teach the lesson. The Man blows on his hands to warm them and blows on his food to cool it. The same action does two opposite things, and the Satyr refuses to trust him. The contradiction IS the message.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Read the published fable.

This is the whole fable. Read it, then read it again. Watch for the contradiction that ends the friendship.

The Man and the Satyr

A MAN and a Satyr once drank together in token of a bond of alliance being formed between them. One very cold wintry day, as they talked, the Man put his fingers to his mouth and blew on them. When the Satyr asked the reason for this, he told him that he did it to warm his hands because they were so cold. Later on in the day they sat down to eat, and the food prepared was quite scalding. The Man raised one of the dishes a little towards his mouth and blew in it. When the Satyr again inquired the reason, he said that he did it to cool the meat, which was too hot.

“I can no longer consider you as a friend,” said the Satyr, “a fellow who with the same breath blows hot and cold.”

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Aesop’s Fables, translated by George Fyler Townsend, published 1867 (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 contradiction that reveals the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the contradiction.

Find the two moments where the Man blows for opposite reasons.

He blew on his hands to warm them.

He blew on his food to cool it.

I CAN | I can notice the contradiction the author uses to reveal the message.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the real message behind the contradiction.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the message.

What is the Satyr really saying?

- A** “A Man and a Satyr once drank together.”
- B** Do not trust someone who says opposite things.
- C** “The food prepared was quite scalding.”

I CAN | I can choose the real message the contradiction reveals.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the contradiction proves the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how the contradiction works.

The Man does the same thing for opposite reasons. How does that confuse the Satyr and prove the message?

“With the same breath **blows hot and cold.”**
The same action, two opposite results. Why does that break trust?

I CAN | I can show how a contradiction proves the author’s message.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a contradiction that reveals a truth.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Write a story where a character does the same thing for two opposite reasons. Let another character react.

A student said her backpack was too heavy to carry, then later swung it over her shoulder to show how strong she was. Her friend said:

I CAN | I can write a contradiction that reveals a message.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why the contradiction makes the message land."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

The author could have just said the moral. Why does showing the contradiction work better?

"A fellow who with the same breath blows hot and cold."

The reader sees the contradiction and feels the Satyr's confusion. Why is that stronger?

I CAN

I can defend why showing a contradiction is stronger than stating a moral.



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Write your own fable with a contradiction.

Choose a character who does the same thing for opposite reasons. Let another character notice and speak the lesson.

Choose a character who does the same thing for opposite reasons.

Show another character noticing the contradiction.

End with the second character speaking the lesson.

I CAN | I can write my own story where a contradiction reveals the message.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The Man **blows to warm** his hands, then **blows to cool** his food. The same breath does opposite things.

CHOOSE **B.** Do not trust someone who says opposite things. B and C are story details.

SHOW The Satyr sees the same action used for warming and cooling. If one breath can mean two opposite things, the Satyr cannot tell what is real. The contradiction breaks trust.

OWN Answers vary. One example: Her friend said, “**If the backpack is too heavy and too light, how can I believe which one is true?**”

DEFEND Stating “do not trust liars” is flat. Seeing the same breath used hot and cold makes the reader feel the confusion. The contradiction is proof the reader can see and feel.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A fox told one rabbit the meadow was safe and told another rabbit the meadow was dangerous. The second rabbit said, “**If your words change with every ear, none of them are true.**”



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE COCK AND THE JEWEL” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“A Cock, scratching for food for himself and his hens, found a precious stone and exclaimed, ‘If your owner had found thee, and not I, he would have taken thee up, and have set thee in thy first estate; but I have found thee for no purpose. I would rather have one barleycorn than all the jewels in the world.’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Roosters are better at finding jewels than people.
- B** What is valuable depends on what you need.
- C** Jewels are always more valuable than food.
- D** Scratching the ground is the best way to find treasure.



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The answer is B.

- A** **Roosters are better at finding jewels than people.**
The Cock found the jewel by accident. The story is about value, not about who finds things.
- B** **What is valuable depends on what you need.**
Correct.
The Cock needs food, not jewels. A barleycorn is worth more to him than a precious stone. The author teaches that value depends on who you are and what you need.
- C** **Jewels are always more valuable than food.**
The story shows the opposite for the Cock. The jewel is worthless to him because he cannot eat it.
- D** **Scratching the ground is the best way to find treasure.**
Scratching is how the Cock looks for food. The message is about what you value, not about how you search.

