

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

An Answer That Settles the Argument

from “The Charcoal-Burner and the Fuller” (Aesop, 1867)

Some fables end with one sentence that settles the whole argument. The Fuller gives one answer, and the story is over. That one sentence IS the message. This week we notice how a single answer can carry the entire 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.

This is the whole fable. Read it, then read it again. Listen for the one answer that settles everything.

The Charcoal-Burner and the Fuller

A CHARCOAL-BURNER carried on his trade in his own house. One day he met a friend, a Fuller, and entreated him to come and live with him, saying that they should be far better neighbors and that their housekeeping expenses would be lessened. The Fuller replied, “The arrangement is impossible as far as I am concerned, for whatever I should whiten, you would immediately blacken again with your charcoal.”

Like will draw like.

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 one answer that settles the argument."

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 answer.

Find the Fuller's reply. How does one sentence end the whole discussion?

"Whatever I should **whiten**, you would immediately **blacken** again with your charcoal."

I CAN | I can notice the one answer that settles the whole argument.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the real 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.

What lesson does the Fuller’s answer teach?

A “A Charcoal-Burner carried on his trade in his own house.”

B “They should be far better neighbors.”

C People whose habits work against each other should not try to share.

I CAN | I can choose the real message behind the settling answer.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the answer 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 answer works.

Why does “whatever I whiten, you would blacken” prove the two cannot live together?

“Whatever I should **whiten”**
“you would immediately **blacken”**

I CAN | I can show how one contrast proves the message.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write one answer that settles an argument.”

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 the one answer that settles this argument.

A painter asked a muddy gardener to share a studio. The gardener replied:

I CAN | I can write one answer that ends the discussion.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why one perfect answer is stronger than a long argument."

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"

Defend the author's choice.

The Fuller could have listed many reasons. Why does one answer work better?

**"Whatever I should whiten, you would immediately blacken again."
One sentence. No argument needed. Why is that stronger?**

I CAN | I can defend why one perfect answer beats a long argument.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own fable with one settling answer.

Choose two characters whose habits work against each other. Let one suggest they work together. Let the other give one answer that ends the discussion.

**Choose two characters whose habits clash.
Let one suggest working together.
Let the other give one answer that settles it.**

I CAN | I can write my own story where one answer carries the whole lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “Whatever I should whiten, you would immediately blacken again with your charcoal.” The Fuller’s one answer shows exactly why the plan will not work.

CHOOSE C. People whose habits work against each other should not try to share. B and C are story details.

SHOW “Whiten” and “blacken” are exact opposites. The contrast proves in one breath that the two trades cannot share a space.

OWN Answers vary. One example: The gardener said, “Whatever I plant, your paint would cover. Whatever you paint, my mud would stain.”

DEFEND A long argument gives the listener room to argue back. One perfect contrast leaves nothing to say. The argument is over before it starts.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A librarian and a drummer thought about sharing a room. The librarian said, “Whatever I quiet, your drums would shake.”



PUBLISHED TEXTS

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

“Two Men were journeying together. One of them picked up an axe that lay upon the path, and said, ‘I have found an axe.’ ‘Nay, my friend,’ replied the other, ‘do not say I, but We have found an axe.’ They had not gone far before they saw the owner pursuing them, and he who had picked up the axe said, ‘We are undone.’ ‘Nay,’ replied the other, ‘say I, not We are undone.’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** If you do not share the good, you should not expect to share the bad.
- B** You should never pick up things you find on the ground.
- C** Two travelers are safer than one.
- D** Axes are dangerous to carry.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is A.

If you do not share the good, you should not expect to share the bad.

Correct.

A

The man said “I” for the good luck and “we” for the trouble. His friend points out that sharing must go both ways.

B

You should never pick up things you find on the ground.

The axe is a story detail. The message is about sharing fairly, not about found objects.

C

Two travelers are safer than one.

The story is not about safety. It is about fairness in sharing.

D

Axes are dangerous to carry.

The danger is from the owner, not the axe. The message is about sharing, not about axes.

