

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

Patience That Builds to a Lesson

from “The Lark and Her Young Ones” (Aesop, 1867, excerpt)

Some fables teach through a character who waits patiently. The mother Lark hears that the farmer will ask friends to help harvest, and she says, there is no hurry. Only when the farmer says he will do it himself does the Lark know it is time to move. Patience and reading people IS the 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 excerpt shows the key moment. Read it, then read it again. Watch for the Lark’s patience.

The Lark and Her Young Ones (excerpt)

One of the young Larks heard his speech and related it to his mother, inquiring of her to what place they should move for safety. “There is no occasion to move yet, my son,” she replied; “the man who only sends to his friends to help him with his harvest is not really in earnest.” The owner of the field came again a few days later and saw the wheat shedding the grain from excess of ripeness. He said, “I will come myself tomorrow with my laborers, and will get in the harvest.” The Lark on hearing these words said to her brood, “It is time now to be off, my little ones, for the man is in earnest this time; he no longer trusts to friends, but will reap the field himself.”

Self-help is the best help.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Aesop’s Fables, translated by George Fyler Townsend, published 1867 (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 the Lark's patience and when it changes."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Notice the patience.

Find the two different things the Lark says. What changes the second time?

First: **"There is no occasion to move yet"** (patient)

Second: **"It is time now to be off"** (urgent)

I CAN | I can notice when the Lark's patience changes to urgency.



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”

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Choose the message.

Why does the Lark only worry when the farmer says he will do it himself?

A People who rely on themselves are the ones who get things done.

B “One of the young Larks heard his speech.”

C “The wheat shedding the grain from excess of ripeness.”

I CAN | I can choose the real message about self-reliance.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the two responses prove the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how the pattern proves the message.

The farmer asks friends first, then decides to do it himself. How do the Lark’s two different responses prove the lesson?

Friends = “not really in earnest”

Himself = “the man is in earnest this time”

I CAN | I can show how the change from patience to urgency proves self-reliance matters.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write two responses that build to a lesson.”

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 what a wise character says at two different moments.

First time: “He says he will ask his brother to fix the fence. **No rush.”**

Second time: “He says he will fix the fence himself tomorrow. **Now we move.”**

I CAN | I can write two responses that show patience building to a lesson.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why repeated responses teach the lesson."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

Why does hearing the Lark say "not yet" first make "now" feel urgent?

"There is no occasion to move yet" (first)

"It is time now to be off" (second). The patience makes the urgency hit harder.

I CAN

I can defend why patience before urgency makes the lesson land.



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Write your own fable about reading the signs.

Choose a wise character who waits patiently. Show them ignoring the first warning and reacting to the second. Let the change teach the lesson.

**Choose a wise, patient character.
Show them ignoring the first warning.
Show them acting on the second.
Let the change teach the lesson.**

I CAN | I can write my own fable where patience and timing teach the lesson.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE First: **“There is no occasion to move yet”** (the farmer relies on friends). Second: **“It is time now to be off”** (the farmer will do it himself).

CHOOSE A. Self-reliance is what makes the farmer dangerous. As long as he depends on others, nothing happens.

SHOW Friends might not show up. When the farmer says “I will do it myself,” the Lark knows he means it. The contrast between depending on others and acting alone proves the lesson.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **“He is asking his brother. Brothers are busy. But when he picks up the hammer himself, that fence is getting fixed.”**

DEFEND The first “not yet” makes the reader relax. When the Lark suddenly says “now,” the reader feels the shift. The patience makes the urgency land.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A squirrel heard the farmer say he would hire someone to plow the field. The mother squirrel said, **“Hired workers are slow. But when he brings his own plow, we run.”**



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

“A Jackdaw, seeing some Doves in a cote abundantly provided with food, painted himself white and joined them. The Doves admitted him. But when one day he forgot himself and began to chatter, they discovered his true character and drove him forth. Failing to obtain food among the Doves, he returned to the Jackdaws. They too, not recognizing him on account of his color, expelled him.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Jackdaws should never visit doves.
- B** Pretending to be what you are not can cost you everything.
- C** Painting yourself white is always a good disguise.
- D** Doves are the most generous birds.



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The answer is B.

A Jackdaws should never visit doves.

The story is not about which birds visit which. It is about the cost of pretending.

Pretending to be what you are not can cost you everything.

B Correct.

The Jackdaw lost both homes. The Doves found him out, and his own flock did not recognize him. Pretending cost him everything.

C Painting yourself white is always a good disguise.

The disguise worked only until the Jackdaw talked. The story shows the disguise failed.

D Doves are the most generous birds.

The Doves shared food, but the story is about the Jackdaw's mistake, not the Doves' generosity.

