

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 Tiny Poem with a Big Idea

from “Happy Thought” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

A poet can say something enormous in just two lines. Stevenson writes one sentence that holds a whole way of seeing the world. This week we notice how brevity can carry a big idea.

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. This is the whole poem. Just two lines. Listen to the size of the idea.

Happy Thought

The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson, published 1885 (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 big idea in a tiny poem."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Notice the big idea.

The poem is only two lines. What is the big idea?

"The world is so full of **a number of things**,"
"I'm sure we should all be as **happy as kings**."

I CAN | I can notice the big idea packed into a tiny poem.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose what makes the idea so big.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the key phrase.

Which phrase carries the most weight?

A “The world is so full”

B “a number of things”

C “as happy as kings”

I CAN | I can choose the phrase that carries the biggest idea.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how two lines hold a whole philosophy.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Show how it works.

How does “as happy as kings” fit with “a number of things”? What is the connection?

**The world has many things.
That should make us as happy as kings. The plenty = the joy.**

I CAN | I can show how the two halves of the poem connect to create one big idea.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a two-line poem with a big idea.”

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 hold one big idea about the world, school, or friendship.

_____ is so full of _____,
I’m sure we should all _____.

I CAN | I can write a tiny poem that carries a big idea.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why two lines can be enough."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Defend the poet's choice.

The poet could have written a long poem. Why do two lines say everything?

Two lines. One idea. No extras.
Why does saying less sometimes mean more?

I CAN | I can defend why brevity can carry a bigger idea than length.



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Write your own two-line poem.

Think of one big idea about the world. Say it in exactly two lines. No more.

**Think of one big idea.
Say it in exactly two lines.
No more.**

I CAN | I can write my own two-line poem with a big idea.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “The world is so full of a number of things, / I’m sure we should all be as happy as kings.” Two lines, one enormous idea: the world’s abundance should make us joyful.

CHOOSE C. “As happy as kings” takes the idea to its peak. The comparison to kings is what makes two lines feel huge.

SHOW “A number of things” is vague on purpose. The reader fills in their own list. “Happy as kings” completes the thought. The poem invites the reader to add their own reasons.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “The sky is so wide and the grass is so green, / I think every day is the best I have seen.”

DEFEND A long poem might list every reason to be happy. Two lines let the reader imagine their own reasons. The brevity IS the power.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: “A friend who will listen is better than gold, / A story worth telling is never too old.”



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

“The Beasts of the forest gave a splendid entertainment at which the Monkey stood up and danced. Having vastly delighted the assembly, he sat down amidst universal applause. The Camel, envious of the praises bestowed on the Monkey, proposed to stand up in his turn and dance for their amusement. He moved about in so utterly ridiculous a manner that the Beasts set upon him with clubs and drove him out of the assembly.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Camels are poor dancers.
- B** Monkeys are the best entertainers.
- C** Not everyone can do what someone else does well.
- D** Forest parties should not include dancing.



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The answer is C.

A Camels are poor dancers.

The story uses the Camel to show a general truth, not to rank animals as dancers.

B Monkeys are the best entertainers.

The Monkey is good at dancing, but the message is about the Camel's mistake, not the Monkey's talent.

C Not everyone can do what someone else does well.

Correct.

The Monkey danced well because dancing is the Monkey's gift. The Camel tried the same thing and failed. The author teaches that copying someone else's talent often leads to embarrassment.

D Forest parties should not include dancing.

The party is the setting. The message is about trying to copy someone else's gift.

