

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 Poem That Invites You In

from “A Good Play” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

A poet can make the reader feel included by using the word “we.” Stevenson says “We built a ship” and the reader joins the adventure. This week we notice how “we” pulls the reader into the poem.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Read the published poem.

Read it aloud. Notice how the word “we” makes you feel like part of the story.

A Good Play

We built a ship upon the stairs
All made of the back-bedroom chairs,
And filled it full of sofa pillows
To go a-sailing on the billows.

We took a saw and several nails,

And water in the nursery pails;
And Tom said, “Let us also take
An apple and a slice of cake;”
Which was enough for Tom and me
To go a-sailing on, till tea.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson, published 1885 (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 how “we” pulls the reader in.”

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 invitation.

Find the word the poet repeats to make the reader feel included.

“**We** built a ship upon the stairs”

“**We** took a saw and several nails”

I CAN | I can notice how “we” invites the reader into the poem.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that invites most strongly.”

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 most inviting line.

Which line makes you most want to join the adventure?

A “We built a ship upon the stairs”

B “And filled it full of sofa pillows”

C “An apple and a slice of cake”

I CAN | I can choose the line that pulls the reader in most.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how “we” changes the poem’s feeling.”

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 it works.

What would change if the poet wrote “They built a ship” instead of “We built a ship”?

“**We** built a ship” = you are **WITH** them.

“They built a ship” = you are **WATCHING** them. What is the difference?

I CAN

I can show how one word changes whether the reader is inside or outside the poem.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write lines that use “we” to invite the reader.”

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 about a game or adventure using “we” so the reader feels included.

**We _____ in the _____,
And _____ until _____.**

I CAN | I can write lines that use “we” to pull the reader in.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why "we" is stronger than "they" or "I.""

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 poet's choice.

Why does "we" feel different from "I" or "they"?

"We built a ship" (together)
"I built a ship" (alone). Why does "we" feel warmer?

I CAN | I can defend why "we" creates a feeling of togetherness.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own “we” poem.

Write about a real or imaginary adventure using “we” so the reader joins in.

Write about an adventure.
Use “we” to include the reader.
Make the reader feel like they are part of the story.

I CAN | I can write my own poem that invites the reader in with “we.”



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The poet uses “**we**” at the start of both stanzas. The reader feels included in the ship-building adventure.

CHOOSE **A.** “We built a ship upon the stairs” is the first invitation. It puts the reader inside the adventure from the first word.

SHOW “We” makes the reader a member of the crew. “They” would make the reader a bystander. One word changes whether you are inside or outside.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “**We dug a tunnel under the blankets / And crawled through the dark until we found the treasure.**”

DEFEND “I” tells you about one person. “They” tells you about strangers. “We” tells you about US, and the reader is part of that us.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: “**We ran through the sprinkler and jumped over the hose, / And laughed until the sun went down and the fireflies rose.**”



PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS POEM • FROM “SYSTEM” BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON (1885)

**“Every night my prayers I say,
And get my dinner every day;
And every day that I’ve been good,
I get an orange after food.”**

Why does the poet repeat “every” so many times?

- A** To teach the reader to pray every night.
- B** To show that the child’s routine is steady and predictable.
- C** To list everything a child should do.
- D** To explain why oranges are a reward.

PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is B.

A To teach the reader to pray every night.

The poem describes the child's habit but does not instruct the reader to copy it.

B To show that the child's routine is steady and predictable.

Correct.

The repeated "every" creates a rhythm that sounds like a routine. The reader feels how regular and reliable the child's day is.

C To list everything a child should do.

The poem names only a few things. The repetition creates rhythm, not a complete list.

D To explain why oranges are a reward.

The orange is a detail. The craft move is the repetition of "every," not the reward itself.

