

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

Review: Three Craft Moves, One New Text

from “The Whole Duty of Children” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

This week we review three craft moves we have studied: contrast, repetition, and a tiny poem with a big idea. We read a new short poem and find all three moves at work. Then we write a poem that uses at least one of them.

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 a very short poem. Look for contrast, repetition, and a big idea packed into a few lines.

The Whole Duty of Children

A child should always say what's true
And speak when he is spoken to,
And behave mannerly at table;
At least as far as he is able.

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.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice the craft moves we studied this year."

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 craft moves.

Find the repetition ("And"), the contrast (rules vs. reality), and the big idea in a small poem.

Repetition: "And speak... And behave"

Contrast: strict rules vs. "At least as far as he is able"

I CAN | I can notice multiple craft moves in one short poem.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the craft move the last line uses.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Choose the strongest move.

Which craft move does the last line use?

A The repetition of “And”

B The contrast between the rules and “at least as far as he is able”

C The brevity of four lines

I CAN | I can choose the craft move that does the most work in this poem.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the craft move creates the feeling.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Show how the contrast works.

The first three lines list serious rules. The last line admits perfection is hard. How does that shift create humor and warmth?

Lines 1–3: Rules (say what’s true, speak when spoken to, behave).

Line 4: “At least as far as he is able.” The admission softens everything.

I CAN | I can show how the contrast between rules and reality creates a warm, human feeling.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can use a craft move from this year in my own writing.”

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. Use any craft move from this year.

Write 2 to 4 lines using at least ONE craft move we studied (contrast, repetition, metaphor, question, list, personification, or brevity).

Choose your craft move. Write your lines. Name the move you used.

I CAN | I can use a craft move from this year in my own writing.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why studying craft moves makes me a stronger writer.”

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 what you learned.

You have studied many craft moves this year. Why does knowing what an author did help you become a better writer?

Craft moves are choices authors make on purpose.

When you know the moves, you can use them yourself. Why does that matter?

I CAN

I can defend why learning craft moves makes me a better reader AND a better writer.



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Write your Year-End poem.

Use any craft move from this year. Write a poem of at least four lines. Name the craft move you used on your tracking sheet.

Choose any craft move from this year.
Write a poem of at least four lines.
Name the craft move you used.

I CAN | I can write my own poem using a craft move I learned this year.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Repetition: **“And”** starts two lines. Contrast: rules vs. **“at least as far as he is able.”** Brevity: four lines hold a complete idea.

CHOOSE B. The contrast between the strict rules and the gentle admission does the most work. It turns a lecture into a warm, funny poem.

SHOW The rules sound serious. The last line admits that perfection is impossible. That one shift changes the whole tone from bossy to kind.

OWN Answers vary. One example (contrast): **“I promise to clean up my room each day, / At least the parts that are in my way.”**

DEFEND Knowing the moves lets you make choices on purpose instead of by accident. A writer who knows the moves can surprise, persuade, and move the reader.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Students should name their craft move on the tracking sheet.



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

**“Of speckled eggs the birdie sings
And nests among the trees;
The sailor sings of ropes and things
In ships upon the seas.”**

Which craft move does this poem use?

A Parallel stanzas that compare two singers and what they love.

B Metaphor that calls the bird a sailor.

C A question that creates wonder.

D Repetition of the same word five times.

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The answer is A.

Parallel stanzas that compare two singers and what they love.

Correct.

A

The birdie sings of eggs. The sailor sings of ropes. Two parallel examples show that everyone sings about what they know. The matching structure IS the craft move.

B

Metaphor that calls the bird a sailor.

The bird and the sailor are separate. There is no metaphor connecting them.

C

A question that creates wonder.

The poem has no questions. It states what each singer sings about.

D

Repetition of the same word five times.

“Sings” appears twice, not five times. The craft move is parallel structure, not word repetition.

