

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including the central idea with supporting evidence”

“compose informational texts, including brief compositions that convey information about a topic, using a clear central idea and genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Informational text can explain why something happens.

A cause makes something happen. The effect is what happens.

Signal words like since, when, and because help my reader follow the chain.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Cause and Effect

from “Rain, from *The Story-Book of Science*” by Jean-Henri Fabre (1917)

Fabre explains rain as a chain of causes and effects: water evaporates, vapor rises, the air cools, clouds form, and drops fall. Words like since, when, and as signal each cause. This week we study how informational writers explain cause and effect.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

Fabre explains where rain comes from. Read it, then read it again. Look for what causes each change.

Rain, from *The Story-Book of Science* (excerpt)

A continual evaporation takes place on the surface of the damp earth as well as on the surface of the different sheets of water, lakes, ponds, marshes, streams, and above all the sea. The vapors formed rise into the air and remain invisible as long as the heat is sufficient. But since heat diminishes as the height increases, there comes a time when the vapors can no longer be kept in complete solution, and they condense into a mass of visible vapor, into a fog or cloud.

When, after a chill encountered in the upper strata of the atmosphere, the cloud-mist reaches a certain degree of condensation, little drops of water form and fall in rain. At first very small, they increase in volume on the way by the union of other similar little drops.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Jean-Henri Fabre, *The Story-Book of Science*, tr. Florence Constable Bicknell, The Century Co., 1917 (public domain, Project Gutenberg #56795)

I CAN | I can read a published informational text and notice the author's craft move.





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice cause and effect signal words.”

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Notice the cause and effect signal words.

Find the words that signal a cause.

since heat diminishes as the height increases

When, after a chill ..., little drops of water form

I CAN | I can notice the signal words that show cause and effect.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the cause of an effect.”

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Choose the cause.

What causes the invisible vapor to become a cloud?

A The air gets colder higher up.

B The sea is very large.

C The drops join other drops.

I CAN | I can choose the cause the writer explains.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

"I can show a cause and effect chain."

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Show the chain.

Put the chain of causes and effects in order.

**water evaporates → vapor rises → air cools
→ cloud forms → drops form → rain falls**

I CAN | I can show how each effect becomes the next cause.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can explain a cause and effect chain.”

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Explain a cause and effect chain you know, such as ice melting or a plant growing. Use signal words.

When _____, _____.

Since _____, _____.

As a result, _____.

I CAN | I can write a cause and effect chain with signal words.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why each link matters."

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Defend the author's choice.

Why does Fabre explain every link instead of saying "Clouds make rain"?

"Clouds make rain."

vs. evaporation, rising, cooling, condensing, falling. Which one explains **why?**

I CAN | I can defend why explaining each cause helps the reader understand.



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Write your own cause and effect paragraph.

Choose something in nature. Explain the causes and effects in order.

Name the event.

Explain each cause and its effect with signal words.

End with the final effect.

I CAN | I can write my own informational paragraph that explains cause and effect.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE **since** and **When** signal causes. **as** also links heat and height.

CHOOSE **A.** Heat diminishes as the height increases, so the vapor condenses into a cloud.

SHOW Evaporation makes vapor. Vapor rises. Cold air makes it condense into a cloud. More cold makes drops, and the drops fall as rain.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **When the sun shines on an ice cube, it warms. Since it is warmer, the ice melts. As a result, a puddle forms.**

DEFEND “Clouds make rain” tells what, not why. The chain explains how water gets into the sky and why it falls, so the reader truly understands.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Check for signal words and a chain in which each effect leads to the next.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “PAPER” (JEAN-HENRI FABRE, 1917)

“Paper, real paper, that on which we write, of which we make books. The beautiful white sheets of your copybooks, the leaves of a book, even the costliest, gilt-edged and enriched with magnificent pictures, come to us from miserable rags.”

What surprising fact does the author share about paper?

- A** Paper grows on trees in copybooks.
- B** Only costly books use paper.
- C** Pictures are made of rags.
- D** Beautiful paper comes from miserable rags.



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The answer is D.

A Paper grows on trees in copybooks.
The paragraph does not say paper grows on trees.

B Only costly books use paper.
He says all paper, even the costliest, comes from rags.

C Pictures are made of rags.
The pictures are printed on the paper. They are not made of rags.

D Beautiful paper comes from miserable rags.
Correct.
He writes that even the costliest paper comes to us from miserable rags.

