

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

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

“compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Published texts are real stories, poems, and books 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 text teaches or shows.

When I study what an author did, I can try that same craft in my own writing.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Ordinary Objects Who Want Something More

from “The Nutcrackers and the Sugar-Tongs” by Edward Lear (1871)

Lear gives two kitchen tools the desire to ride horses across meadows. The gap between what they are (nutcrackers, sugar-tongs) and what they want (freedom, adventure) is what makes the poem work.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Read the published text.

Read it, then read it again. Notice the craft move the author uses.

The Nutcrackers and the Sugar-Tongs

The Nutcrackers sate by a plate on the table;
The Sugar-tongs sate by a plate at his side;
And the Nutcrackers said, “Don’t you wish we were able
Along the blue hills and green meadows to ride?
Must we drag on this stupid existence forever,
So idle and weary, so full of remorse,
While every one else takes his pleasure, and never
Seems happy unless he is riding a horse?

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Nonsense Songs by Edward Lear (public domain, Project Gutenberg #13650)

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 wanting."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

"compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft"

Notice the wanting.

What do the Nutcrackers want? Why is that surprising?

They want to ride horses across meadows. That is surprising because they are kitchen tools stuck on a table.

I CAN | I can notice the wanting..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

"I can choose the strongest line."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

"compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft"

Choose the strongest line.

Which line best shows the gap between what they are and what they want?

- A** "The Nutcrackers sate by a plate" (their boring reality)
- B** "Along the blue hills and green meadows to ride" (their dream)
- C** "Must we drag on this stupid existence forever" (their frustration)

I CAN | I can choose the strongest line..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the gap creates the poem.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

“compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

Show how the gap creates the poem.

What would the poem lose if the speakers were children instead of kitchen tools?

Children wanting adventure is expected. Kitchen tools wanting adventure is absurd. The gap between what they ARE and what they WANT is where the humor and charm live.

I CAN | I can show how the gap creates the poem..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can own it. give an object a desire."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

"compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft"

Own it. Give an object a desire.

Pick a household object. Give it a longing for something it can never have.

The umbrella sighed by the door, "I wish I could fly without the rain. Just once, I want to open up on a clear blue day."

I CAN | I can own it. give an object a desire..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend the gap."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

"compose literary texts such as personal narratives and poetry using genre characteristics and craft"

Defend the gap.

Why is a frustrated Nutcracker funnier and more interesting than a frustrated person?

The reader does not expect a Nutcracker to have feelings. When it does, the surprise creates both humor and sympathy. The unexpected emotion is what makes it memorable.

I CAN | I can defend the gap..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write about an object that wants something more.

Pick an object. Write at least four lines about what it wishes for.

**Use what you learned this week about ordinary objects who
want something more.**

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use ordinary objects who want something more in my own writing.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE They want to ride horses across meadows. That is surprising because they are kitchen tools stuck on a table.

CHOOSE C. “Must we drag on this stupid existence forever” (their frustration)

SHOW Children wanting adventure is expected. Kitchen tools wanting adventure is absurd. The gap between what they ARE and what they WANT is where the humor and charm live.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **The umbrella sighed by the door, “I wish I could fly without the rain. Just once, I want to open up on a clear blue day.”**

DEFEND The reader does not expect a Nutcracker to have feelings. When it does, the surprise creates both humor and sympathy. The unexpected emotion is what makes it memorable.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE BOASTING TRAVELER” (AESOP (TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867))

A man who had traveled in foreign lands boasted very much, on returning to his own country, of the many wonderful and heroic feats he had performed in the different places he had visited. Among other things, he said that when he was at Rhodes he had leaped to such a distance that no man of his day could leap anywhere near him. One of the bystanders interrupted him, saying: “Now, my good man, if this be all true there is no need of witnesses. Suppose this to be Rhodes, and leap for us.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Traveling makes a person wiser
- B** It is wrong to be proud
- C** Actions prove the truth better than words
- D** Bystanders should not interrupt



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is C.

A **Traveling makes a person wiser**
Not about travel's value.

B **It is wrong to be proud**
Not about pride itself. About proof.

C **Correct.**
The bystander asks for proof. Actions prove truth.

D **Bystanders should not interrupt**
The interruption IS the lesson.

