

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

A Character Defined by One Exaggerated Detail

from “The Quangle Wangle’s Hat” by Edward Lear (1877)

Lear builds the Quangle Wangle around one thing: a hat that is a hundred and two feet wide. Every detail in the stanza adds to the hat. The character IS the hat. This week we study how one exaggerated detail can define a character.

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 Quangle Wangle's Hat

On the top of the Crumpetty Tree
The Quangle Wangle sat,
But his face you could not see,
On account of his Beaver Hat.
For his Hat was a hundred and two feet wide,
With ribbons and bibbons on every side,
And bells, and buttons, and loops, and lace,
So that nobody ever could see the face
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Laughable Lyrics 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 one detail.”

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 one detail.

What is the one thing that defines the Quangle Wangle?

His hat. It is 102 feet wide, covered in ribbons, bibbons, bells, buttons, loops, and lace. Everything about him is about the hat.

I CAN | I can notice the one detail..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the most defining line.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Choose the most defining line.

Which line makes the hat feel the most absurd?

- A** “His Hat was a hundred and two feet wide” (the size)
- B** “With ribbons and bibbons on every side” (the decorations)
- C** “So that nobody ever could see the face” (the consequence)

I CAN | I can choose the most defining line..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how one detail defines a character.”

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 one detail defines a character.

What would happen if Lear described the Quangle Wangle’s face, clothes, and shoes too?

Adding more details would dilute the hat. The hat is funny BECAUSE it is the only thing. One exaggerated detail is stronger than five normal ones.

I CAN | I can show how one detail defines a character..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. define a character by one detail.”

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. Define a character by one detail.

Create a character whose identity is built around one wildly exaggerated feature.

Old Mrs. Crickle had a scarf so long it trailed behind her through three rooms, up the stairs, and out the window. Nobody knew her face; they only knew her scarf.

I CAN | I can own it. define a character by one detail..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend the single detail."

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 single detail.

Why is one exaggerated detail stronger than a full description?

A full description gives the reader too many things to remember. One absurd detail becomes the character's signature. The reader remembers the hat forever.

I CAN | I can defend the single detail..



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Write about a character defined by one detail.

Create a character. Build everything around one exaggerated feature.

**Use what you learned this week about a character defined by
one exaggerated detail.**

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use a character defined by one exaggerated detail in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE His hat. It is 102 feet wide, covered in ribbons, bibbons, bells, buttons, loops, and lace. Everything about him is about the hat.

CHOOSE C. “So that nobody ever could see the face” (the consequence)

SHOW Adding more details would dilute the hat. The hat is funny BECAUSE it is the only thing. One exaggerated detail is stronger than five normal ones.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **Old Mrs. Crickle had a scarf so long it trailed behind her through three rooms, up the stairs, and out the window. Nobody knew her face; they only knew her scarf.**

DEFEND A full description gives the reader too many things to remember. One absurd detail becomes the character’s signature. The reader remembers the hat forever.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “MARCHING SONG” (ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON)

**Bring the comb and play upon it!
Marching, here we come!**

**Willie cocks his highland bonnet,
Johnnie beats the drum.**

**All in the most martial manner
Marching double-quick;**

**While the napkin, like a banner,
Waves upon the stick!**

**Here’s enough of fame and pillage,
Great commander Jane!
Now that we’ve been round the village,
Let’s go home again.**

What craft move does the poet use by calling children Grenadiers and a napkin a banner?

- A** The poet is confused about napkins
- B** The children are actually in the army
- C** Imagination transforms ordinary items into grand military equipment
- D** A factual account of a parade



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The answer is C.

A The poet is confused about napkins
The poet knows what a napkin is.

B The children are actually in the army
The children are playing.

C Correct.
Imagination transforms ordinary items into grand military equipment
A comb becomes an instrument, a napkin a banner. Imagination transforms play.

D A factual account of a parade
Not factual. It is imaginative play.

