

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 Punchline That Delivers the Lesson

from “The Eagle and the Jackdaw” by Aesop (trans. George Fyler Townsend) (1867)

The whole fable builds toward one final line.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

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

The Eagle and the Jackdaw

An Eagle, flying down from his perch on a lofty rock, seized upon a lamb and carried him aloft in his talons. A Jackdaw, who witnessed the capture of the lamb, was stirred with envy and determined to emulate the strength and flight of the Eagle. He flew around with a great whir of his wings and settled upon a large ram, with the intention of carrying him off, but his claws became entangled in the ram's fleece and he was not able to release himself. The shepherd, seeing what had happened, ran up and caught him. He at once clipped the Jackdaw's wings, and taking him home at night, gave him to his children. On their saying, "Father, what kind of bird is it?" he replied, "To my certain knowledge he is a Daw; but he would like you to think an Eagle."

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Three Hundred Aesop's Fables (public domain, Project Gutenberg #21)

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice the punchline."

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 punchline.

Which line delivers the lesson?

"To my certain knowledge he is a Daw; but he would like you to think an Eagle."

I CAN | I can notice the punchline..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose what makes the punchline work.”

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 what makes the punchline work.

Why does the final line feel satisfying?

A It is funny (the gap between what the Jackdaw is and what it pretends)

B The shepherd speaks (authority)

C The children asked (curiosity)

I CAN | I can choose what makes the punchline work..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how setup earns the punchline.”

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 setup earns the punchline.

How does the story build to that line?

Eagle succeeds. Jackdaw fails. Each step makes the final line funnier.

I CAN | I can show how setup earns the punchline..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can own it. write a punchline fable."

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. Write a punchline fable.

Build to one final sentence that delivers the lesson.

**A Sparrow watched a Parrot and tried to repeat words. Out came only chirps.
The owner said, "He has the voice of a Sparrow, but the ambition of a
professor."**

I CAN | I can own it. write a punchline fable..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend the punchline."

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 punchline.

Why is saving the lesson for the last line stronger?

If the lesson came first, the story would just be an example. Saving it makes the reader earn it.

I CAN | I can defend the punchline..



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Write a story with a punchline.

Build a short story. The last line delivers the lesson.

Use what you learned this week about a punchline that delivers the lesson.

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use a punchline that delivers the lesson in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “To my certain knowledge he is a Daw; but he would like you to think an Eagle.”

CHOOSE **A.** It is funny (the gap between what the Jackdaw is and what it pretends)

SHOW Eagle succeeds. Jackdaw fails. Each step makes the final line funnier.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **A Sparrow watched a Parrot and tried to repeat words. Out came only chirps. The owner said, “He has the voice of a Sparrow, but the ambition of a professor.”**

DEFEND If the lesson came first, the story would just be an example. Saving it makes the reader earn it.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE CAT AND THE BIRDS” (AESOP (TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867))

A Cat, hearing that the Birds in a certain aviary were ailing dressed himself up as a physician, and, taking his cane and a bag of instruments becoming his profession, went to call on them. He knocked at the door and inquired of the inmates how they all did, saying that if they were ill, he would be happy to prescribe for them and cure them. They replied, “We are all very well, and shall continue so, if you will only be good enough to go away, and leave us as we are.”

What is the author’s message?

- A** Birds should never trust visitors
- B** Recognizing a trick is the best protection
- C** Cats are better doctors
- D** It is rude to turn visitors away



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The answer is B.

A **Birds should never trust visitors**
Not about trusting no one. About spotting tricks.

B **Recognizing a trick is the best protection**
Correct.
The Birds see through the Cat's disguise.

C **Cats are better doctors**
The Cat is not a real doctor.

D **It is rude to turn visitors away**
The Birds are smart, not rude.

