

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 Narrator Who Speaks Directly to the Reader

from “The Elephant’s Child” by Rudyard Kipling (1902)

Kipling talks to the reader: “O Best Beloved.” Direct address makes the story feel like a conversation.

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 Elephant's Child

Then Kolokolo Bird said, with a mournful cry, “Go to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, and find out.”

That very next morning, this 'satiabile Elephant's Child took a hundred pounds of bananas (the little short red kind), and a hundred pounds of sugar-cane (the long purple kind), and seventeen melons (the greeny-crackly kind), and said to all his dear families, “Goodbye. I am going to the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, to find out what the Crocodile has for dinner.”

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

From *Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling (public domain, Project Gutenberg #2781)

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 direct address."

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 direct address.

Find the words where the narrator speaks to you.

"O Best Beloved" and "O my Best Beloved." The narrator talks to the reader.

I CAN | I can notice the direct address..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose what direct address does.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Choose what direct address does.

What effect does it have?

- A** Formal and distant
- B** Like a personal conversation
- C** Like a textbook

I CAN | I can choose what direct address does..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how direct address works.”

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 direct address works.

How would the story feel without it?

Without it, the story is a report. With it, the reader is invited into the circle.

I CAN | I can show how direct address works..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. write with direct address.”

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 with direct address.

Start a story speaking to the reader.

Listen close, dear reader. Once there was a fish who wanted to fly.

I CAN | I can own it. write with direct address..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend direct address."

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 direct address.

Why does Kipling speak to the reader?

He imitates an oral storyteller. It creates trust and warmth.

I CAN | I can defend direct address..



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Write a story that speaks to the reader.

Address the reader at least twice.

Use what you learned this week about a narrator who speaks directly to the reader.

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use a narrator who speaks directly to the reader in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE “O Best Beloved” and “O my Best Beloved.” The narrator talks to the reader.

CHOOSE B. Like a personal conversation

SHOW Without it, the story is a report. With it, the reader is invited into the circle.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **Listen close, dear reader. Once there was a fish who wanted to fly.**

DEFEND He imitates an oral storyteller. It creates trust and warmth.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “THE FOX AND THE GOAT” (AESOP (TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867))

A Fox one day fell into a deep well and could find no means of escape. A Goat, overcome with thirst, came to the same well, and seeing the Fox, inquired if the water was good. Concealing his sad plight under a merry guise, the Fox indulged in a lavish praise of the water, saying it was excellent beyond measure, and encouraging him to descend. The Goat, mindful only of his thirst, thoughtlessly jumped down, but just as he drank, the Fox informed him of the difficulty they were both in.

What is the author’s message about the Fox?

- A** Foxes are smarter than goats
- B** Do not trust advice from someone already in trouble
- C** It is kind to share water
- D** Wells are not safe for animals



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The answer is B.

A **Foxes are smarter than goats**
About trust, not intelligence.

B **Correct.**
Do not trust advice from someone already in trouble
The Fox hides his trouble and tricks the Goat.

C **It is kind to share water**
Not sharing. Tricking.

D **Wells are not safe for animals**
Not about well safety.

