

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 Who Speaks the Lesson Directly

from “The Horse and Groom” by Aesop (trans. George Fyler Townsend) (1867)

The Horse names the problem out loud.

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 Horse and Groom

A Groom used to spend whole days in currycombing and rubbing down his Horse, but at the same time stole his oats and sold them for his own profit. “Alas!” said the Horse, “if you really wish me to be in good condition, you should groom me less, and feed me more.”

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 horse’s words.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the Horse’s words.

What lesson is in the Horse’s words?

Groom me less, feed me more. Real care means giving what is truly needed.

I CAN | I can notice the horse’s words..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the strongest part.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the strongest part.

Which words carry the lesson?

A “Alas!” (complaint)

B “groom me less, and feed me more” (lesson)

C “if you really wish me” (condition)

I CAN | I can choose the strongest part..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how direct speech 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 speech works.

Why does the Horse saying it work better than a narrator?

The reader hears frustration and truth together. A narrator would be distant.

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. let a character speak the lesson.”

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. Let a character speak the lesson.

An animal or object says what is wrong.

“You water my leaves every hour,” said the plant, “but you never open the curtains. I need light, not a flood.”

I CAN | I can own it. let a character speak the lesson..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend direct speech."

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 speech.

Why is the Horse's voice stronger than a summary?

The reader remembers the voice, not the summary.

I CAN | I can defend direct speech..



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Write a scene where the character states the lesson.

One clear sentence.

**Use what you learned this week about a character who speaks
the lesson directly.**

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use a character who speaks the lesson directly in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Groom me less, feed me more. Real care means giving what is truly needed.

CHOOSE B. “groom me less, and feed me more” (lesson)

SHOW The reader hears frustration and truth together. A narrator would be distant.

OWN Answers vary. One example: “**You water my leaves every hour,” said the plant, “but you never open the curtains. I need light, not a flood.”**

DEFEND The reader remembers the voice, not the summary.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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

A troublesome Crow seated herself on the back of a Sheep. The Sheep, much against his will, carried her backward and forward for a long time, and at last said, “If you had treated a dog in this way, you would have had your deserts from his sharp teeth.” To this the Crow replied, “I despise the weak and yield to the strong. I know whom I may bully and whom I must flatter; and I thus prolong my life to a good old age.”

What does the Crow’s reply reveal?

- A** She is afraid of all animals
- B** She deliberately takes advantage of those who will not fight back
- C** She wants to help the Sheep
- D** She does not know the difference



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The answer is B.

A **She is afraid of all animals**
Not afraid of all. Yields to the strong.

B **Correct.**
She deliberately takes advantage of those who will not fight back
The Crow admits she bullies the weak and flatters the strong.

C **She wants to help the Sheep**
No interest in helping.

D **She does not know the difference**
She knows exactly.

