

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

Four Lines That Teach a Lifetime Lesson

from “A toadstool comes up in a night” by Christina Rossetti (1872)

Toadstool: fast, small. Oak: slow, mighty. Brevity and contrast together.

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.

A toadstool comes up in a night

A toadstool comes up in a night,—
Learn the lesson, little folk:—
An oak grows on a hundred years,
But then it is an oak.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From Sing-Song by Christina Rossetti (public domain, Project Gutenberg #76703)

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 contrast."

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 contrast.

What two things are compared?

Toadstool (fast, small, temporary) and oak (slow, huge, lasting).

I CAN | I can notice the contrast..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that delivers 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”

Choose the line that delivers the lesson.

Which carries the most weight?

- A** A toadstool comes up in a night (fast)
- B** Learn the lesson, little folk (instruction)
- C** But then it is an oak (reward of patience)

I CAN | I can choose the line that delivers the lesson..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how brevity and contrast 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”

Show how brevity and contrast work.

Why do four lines work better than a page?

The short form mirrors the lesson. The final line carries a hundred years of weight.

I CAN | I can show how brevity and contrast work..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. write a four-line contrast.”

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 four-line contrast.

Two things compared. Last line delivers the lesson.

**A firecracker goes off with a bang, / bright for a moment, then done. / A candle
burns quietly on, / and lights you until morning comes.**

I CAN | I can own it. write a four-line contrast..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend brevity."

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 brevity.

Why is a four-line poem about patience better than a long essay?

A long essay about patience is ironic. The four-line poem practices what it preaches.

I CAN | I can defend brevity..



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Write a four-line poem with a lesson.

Contrast. Last line delivers the message.

Use what you learned this week about four lines that teach a lifetime lesson.

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use four lines that teach a lifetime lesson in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Toadstool (fast, small, temporary) and oak (slow, huge, lasting).

CHOOSE C. But then it is an oak (reward of patience)

SHOW The short form mirrors the lesson. The final line carries a hundred years of weight.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **A firecracker goes off with a bang, / bright for a moment, then done. / A candle burns quietly on, / and lights you until morning comes.**

DEFEND A long essay about patience is ironic. The four-line poem practices what it preaches.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “A LINNET IN A GILDED CAGE” (CHRISTINA ROSSETTI)

A linnet in a gilded cage,—

A linnet on a bough,—

In frosty winter one might doubt

Which bird is luckier now.

But let the trees burst out in leaf,

And nests be on the bough,

Which linnet is the luckier bird,

Oh who could doubt it now?

What is the message about freedom and comfort?

A Cages are always cruel

B Freedom is better than comfort, even if comfort seems easier at first

C Winter is worst for all birds

D Linnets should not be pets



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The answer is B.

A **Cages are always cruel**
Not about cruelty. Contrasts seasons.

B **Correct.**
In winter, the caged bird seems luckier. In spring, the free bird clearly wins.

C **Winter is worst for all birds**
Not about winter being bad.

D **Linnets should not be pets**
About freedom vs. comfort.

