

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

Over-the-Top Description for Comedy

from “How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin” by Rudyard Kipling (1902)

Two feet across, three feet thick, smelt most sentimental. Exaggeration creates laughter.

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.

How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin

Once upon a time, on an uninhabited island on the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a Doorstopper who took flour and water and currants and plums and sugar and things, and made himself one cake which was two feet across and three feet thick. It was indeed a Superior Comestible, and he put it on a stove because he was allowed to cook on that stove, and he baked it and he baked it till it was all done brown and smelt most sentimental.

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 exaggeration.”

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 exaggeration.

Three over-the-top details about the cake.

Two feet across, three feet thick, smelt most sentimental.

I CAN | I can notice the exaggeration..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the silliest 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”

Choose the silliest detail.

Which is most absurd?

A Two feet across (the size)

B Flour and water and currants and plums and sugar and things (the list)

C Smelt most sentimental (nonsense adjective)

I CAN | I can choose the silliest detail..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how exaggeration creates comedy.”

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 exaggeration creates comedy.

Why is “sentimental” funnier than “delicious”?

“Delicious” is expected. “Sentimental” is absurd because smells cannot be sentimental.

I CAN | I can show how exaggeration creates comedy..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. exaggerate a description.”

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. Exaggerate a description.

Ordinary thing, absurd details.

**A sandwich of magnificent proportions: bread as thick as a dictionary,
mustard applied with the generosity of a paint roller.**

I CAN | I can own it. exaggerate a description..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend exaggeration."

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 exaggeration.

Why make the cake ridiculously big?

A nice cake is forgettable. A two-foot sentimental-smelling cake is unforgettable.

I CAN | I can defend exaggeration..



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Write over-the-top description.

Everyday object as the most extraordinary thing.

**Use what you learned this week about over-the-top
description for comedy.**

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use over-the-top description for comedy in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Two feet across, three feet thick, smelt most sentimental.

CHOOSE C. Smelt most sentimental (nonsense adjective)

SHOW “Delicious” is expected. “Sentimental” is absurd because smells cannot be sentimental.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **A sandwich of magnificent proportions: bread as thick as a dictionary, mustard applied with the generosity of a paint roller.**

DEFEND A nice cake is forgettable. A two-foot sentimental-smelling cake is unforgettable.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE RICH MAN AND THE TANNER” (AESOP (TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867))

A rich man lived near a Tanner, and not being able to bear the unpleasant smell of the tan-yard, he pressed his neighbor to go away. The Tanner put off his departure from time to time, saying that he would leave soon. And as time went by, the man became accustomed to the smell, and no longer bothered the Tanner to move.

What is the message?

- A** People grow accustomed to things they once found unbearable
- B** Rich people are more patient
- C** Tanners should move if neighbors complain
- D** Unpleasant smells go away on their own



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The answer is A.

People grow accustomed to things they once found unbearable

A Correct.

What seems unbearable becomes normal with time.

Rich people are more patient

B

Not about wealth.

Tanners should move if neighbors complain

C

Does not take sides.

Unpleasant smells go away on their own

D

The smell did not go away. The reaction changed.

