

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

Simple Language That Captures a Big Moment

from “At the Sea-Side” by Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

The simplest possible words. The simplicity IS the craft.

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.

At the Sea-Side

When I was down beside the sea
A wooden spade they gave to me
To dig the sandy shore.

My holes were empty like a cup.
In every hole the sea came up,
Till it could come no more.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

From A Child's Garden of Verses (public domain, Project Gutenberg #136)

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the simplicity.”

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 simplicity.

Count the hard words.

Almost none. The poem is made of tiny, common words.

I CAN | I can notice the simplicity..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that does the most.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Choose the line that does the most.

Which paints the clearest picture?

A A wooden spade they gave to me (setup)

B My holes were empty like a cup (the image)

C Till it could come no more (ending)

I CAN | I can choose the line that does the most..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

"I can show how simplicity 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 simplicity works.

Why does the cup image work?

The comparison is perfect. Every reader has seen a hole fill with water.

I CAN | I can show how simplicity works..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can own it. write simply.”

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 simply.

Simplest words you can.

The cat sat on the wall. / The sun was warm. / She closed her eyes / and did not move at all.

I CAN | I can own it. write simply..



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend simplicity."

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 simplicity.

Why can simple language be hard to write?

Fancy language hides weak ideas. Simple language has nowhere to hide.

I CAN | I can defend simplicity..



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Write a short poem using only simple words.

Describe something you have done.

Use what you learned this week about simple language that captures a big moment.

Write your own text that uses this craft move.

I CAN | I can use simple language that captures a big moment in my own writing.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Almost none. The poem is made of tiny, common words.

CHOOSE B. My holes were empty like a cup (the image)

SHOW The comparison is perfect. Every reader has seen a hole fill with water.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **The cat sat on the wall. / The sun was warm. / She closed her eyes / and did not move at all.**

DEFEND Fancy language hides weak ideas. Simple language has nowhere to hide.

YOUR TURN Answers vary.



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

A Raven saw a Swan and desired to secure for himself the same beautiful plumage. Supposing that the Swan’s splendid white color arose from his washing in the water in which he swam, the Raven left the altars in the neighborhood where he picked up his living, and took up residence in the lakes and pools. But cleansing his feathers as often as he would, he could not change their color.

What is the message about the Raven?

- A** Copying habits will not give you natural qualities
- B** Ravens should not swim
- C** Swans are most beautiful
- D** Washing feathers is pointless



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is A.

Copying habits will not give you natural qualities

A Correct.

The Raven thought washing would change his color. Nature cannot be copied.

B

Ravens should not swim

Not about swimming.

C

Swans are most beautiful

Not a beauty ranking.

D

Washing feathers is pointless

About imitating nature.

