

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“recognize characteristics and structures of informational text, including the central idea with supporting evidence”

“compose informational texts, including brief compositions that convey information about a topic, using a clear central idea and genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Informational writers describe exactly what they observe.

A comparison to something familiar helps readers picture a new idea.

Precise verbs make each step clear.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Precise Observation and Comparison

from “The Pastoral Bees” by John Burroughs (1879)

Burroughs explains how bees store pollen by describing exactly what he saw, and he compares each action to something readers know: kicking off boots, packing butter. This week we study how informational writers use precise details and comparisons to explain.

This deck teaches **informational author craft and composition** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

John Burroughs kept bees and watched them closely. Read how he describes the work inside the hive. Read it twice.

The Pastoral Bees (excerpt)

My bees get their first supplies from the catkins of the willows. How quickly they find them out. If but one catkin opens anywhere within range, a bee is on hand that very hour to rifle it, and it is a most pleasing experience to stand near the hive some mild April day and see them come pouring in with their little baskets packed with this first fruitage of the spring.

When a bee brings pollen into the hive, he advances to the cell in which it is to be deposited and kicks it off as one might his overalls or rubber boots, making one foot help the other; then he walks off without ever looking behind him; another bee, one of the indoor hands, comes along and rams it down with his head and packs it into the cell as the dairymaid packs butter into a firkin.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

John Burroughs, *Birds and Bees, Sharp Eyes, and Other Papers*, Houghton, Mifflin, 1887 edition (public domain, Project Gutenberg #3163)

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



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice comparisons in informational text.”

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Notice the comparisons.

Find two comparisons Burroughs uses to explain what the bees do.

kicks it off as one might his overalls or rubber boots
packs it into the cell as the dairymaid packs butter into a firkin

I CAN | I can notice the comparisons that explain the bees' work.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose precise verbs.”

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Choose the precise verbs.

Which group of verbs shows exactly what the bees do?

A advances, kicks, walks off, rams, packs

B brings, is, comes

C find, opens, is

I CAN | I can choose the precise verbs the writer uses.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how details explain a process.”

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Show the teamwork.

Explain the two jobs: the bee that brings pollen and the bee that packs it.

Field bee: brings pollen, **kicks it off, walks away.**
Indoor bee: **rams it down and **packs it** into the cell.**

I CAN | I can show how precise details explain how the bees work together.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can describe an observation with a comparison.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Observe something real, like a pet, a bird, or a classmate's routine. Describe one action precisely with a comparison.

The _____ (precise verb) _____
as _____ (something familiar).

I CAN | I can write a precise observation with a comparison.

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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why comparisons help readers learn.”

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Defend the author's choice.

Why does Burroughs compare bees to people doing everyday work?

**Readers have never watched inside a hive.
But they **have** pulled off boots and seen butter packed.**

I CAN | I can defend why familiar comparisons make new facts easy to picture.



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Write your own observation paragraph.

Watch something in nature for five minutes. Explain what it does with precise verbs and one comparison.

Name what you observed.

Describe each action with precise verbs.

Add one comparison to something familiar.

I CAN | I can write an informational paragraph from my own precise observations.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Kicking off pollen **as one might his overalls or rubber boots**, and packing it **as the dairymaid packs butter into a firkin**.

CHOOSE **A.** advances, kicks, walks off, rams, packs: each verb names one exact action.

SHOW One bee brings the pollen and kicks it into the cell. An indoor bee packs it down. The details show the hive divides the work.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **The squirrel stuffed acorns into its cheeks as a shopper crams groceries into one last bag.**

DEFEND Most readers have never seen inside a hive. Comparing bees to familiar chores lets them picture each action and remember it.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Check for precise verbs, a step-by-step description, and a comparison.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE SPIDER’S WEB” (JEAN-HENRI FABRE, 1917)

“Since it must serve as a support to the silken network, the first thread stretched from one bank to the other must be of exceptional firmness. The epeira begins, therefore, by fixing both ends well; then, going and coming on the thread from one extremity to the other, always spinning, it doubles and trebles the strands and sticks them together in a common cable. A second similar cable is necessary, placed beneath the first in an almost parallel direction. It is between the two that the web must be spun.”

Why must the spider’s first thread be so strong?

- A** It is the last thread spun.
- B** It hangs straight down.
- C** It supports the whole silken network.
- D** It catches the most insects.

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The answer is C.

A **It is the last thread spun.**
It is the first thread, not the last.

B **It hangs straight down.**
The first thread stretches from one bank to the other.

C **Correct.**
The text says it must serve as a support to the silken network.

D **It catches the most insects.**
The text does not say the first thread catches insects.

