

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

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

“compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Published texts are real stories 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 story teaches.

When I study what an author did, I can try that same craft in my own writing.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

The Villain Delivers the Lesson

from “The Wolf and the Crane” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

Sometimes the author lets the wrong-doer speak the lesson. The Wolf’s answer is unfair, but it teaches the reader a truth about dealing with the wicked. This week we read a published fable, notice how the villain’s words carry the message, and try that craft move in our own writing.

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 aloud slowly. Watch for the craft move the author uses.

The Wolf and the Crane

A Wolf who had a bone stuck in his throat hired a Crane, for a large sum, to put her head into his mouth and draw out the bone. When the Crane had extracted the bone and demanded the promised payment, the Wolf, grinning and grinding his teeth, exclaimed: “Why, you have surely already had a sufficient recompense, in having been permitted to draw out your head in safety from the mouth and jaws of a wolf.”

SOURCE

Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867 (Project Gutenberg #21, public domain)





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the message in the villain’s own words.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

“compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

Notice the message.

Read the fable. Find the sentence where the Wolf states the lesson.

“Why, you have surely already had a sufficient recompense, in having been permitted to draw out your head in safety from the mouth and jaws of a wolf.”

I CAN | I can notice the message in the villain’s own words.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the sentence that best states the author’s message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Choose the message.

Which sentence best states the author’s message? Use the story to decide.

A A Wolf had a bone stuck in his throat and hired a Crane.

B In serving the wicked, expect no reward, and be thankful if you escape without injury.

C The Crane put her head into the Wolf’s mouth.

I CAN | I can choose the sentence that best states the author’s message.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the story proves the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Wolf’s response to the Crane prove the author’s message?

The Crane risked her life to help. The Wolf refused to pay and said she should feel lucky to be alive. That proves the lesson about helping the wicked.

I CAN | I can explain how the story’s details lead to the author’s message.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a villain’s response that carries the lesson.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

“compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

Own it. Try the craft move.

Read the practice story. Write what the villain says to deliver the message.

A mouse helped a cat untangle herself from a net. The cat stretched, yawned, and looked at the mouse.

I CAN | I can write a villain’s response that carries the lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why the author lets the villain deliver the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author’s choice.

Why is the lesson stronger when the Wolf says it instead of the narrator?

The Wolf’s words are unfair, but they teach a truth. Why does hearing the villain speak the lesson make the message hit harder?

I CAN | I can defend why the author lets the villain deliver the message.



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Write your own fable where the villain delivers the lesson.

Choose a character who does something unfair. Let that character speak the lesson in one sentence.

Choose a character who does something unfair.

Show what happens to the one who helped.

End with one sentence where the villain speaks the lesson.

I CAN | I can write my own story and use the craft move we studied all week.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The Wolf says the Crane should be grateful she got her head back safely. That sentence carries the author's lesson about helping the wicked.

CHOOSE B. The other choices describe what happens. The message is the lesson about expecting nothing when serving the wicked.

SHOW The Crane risked her life to help and got nothing in return. The Wolf's refusal to pay proves the message.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"You should count yourself lucky that I let you walk away after standing so close to my claws."**

DEFEND When the villain says the lesson, the reader feels the injustice directly. The Wolf's words prove the message by living it.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A bird pulled a thorn from a snake's side. The snake hissed, **"Be glad I was too tired to strike. That is the only thanks you will ever get from me."**



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “THE BOY HUNTING LOCUSTS” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“A Boy was hunting for locusts. He had caught a goodly number, when he saw a Scorpion, and mistaking him for a locust, reached out his hand to take him. The Scorpion, showing his sting, said: ‘If you had but touched me, my friend, you would have lost me, and all your locusts too!’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Boys should not hunt for locusts.
- B** Scorpions are more valuable than locusts.
- C** Look carefully at what you are reaching for, or you may lose everything.
- D** Scorpions and locusts look the same.



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The answer is C.

Boys should not hunt for locusts.

- A** The story is not about hunting locusts. It is about the danger of reaching for something without looking carefully.

Scorpions are more valuable than locusts.

- B** The story does not compare value. It warns about the danger of not looking before you reach.

Look carefully at what you are reaching for, or you may lose everything.

Correct.

- C** The Boy almost grabbed a Scorpion because he did not look closely. The author teaches that not paying attention can cost you more than you expect.

Scorpions and locusts look the same.

- D** The boy confused them, but the message is about being careful, not about how insects look.

