

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 Character Admits the Lesson

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

Sometimes the one who makes the mistake is also the one who speaks the lesson. The Dog does not blame anyone else. He says what he did wrong. This week we read a published fable, notice how the character admits the lesson, 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 Dog and the Oyster

A Dog, used to eating eggs, saw an Oyster and, opening his mouth to its widest extent, swallowed it down with the utmost relish, supposing it to be an egg. Soon afterwards suffering great pain in his stomach, he said, “I deserve all this torment, for my folly in thinking that everything round must be an egg.”

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice when a character admits the lesson.”

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Notice the admission.

Read the fable. Find the sentence where the Dog admits what he did wrong.

“I deserve all this torment, for my folly in thinking that everything round must be an egg.”

I CAN | I can notice the moment when a character admits the lesson.



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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?

A “I deserve all this torment, for my folly in thinking that everything round must be an egg.”

B “A Dog, used to eating eggs, saw an Oyster.”

C “He swallowed it down with the utmost relish.”

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



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the story leads to the admission.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Dog’s habit of eating eggs set up his mistake?

**The Dog is “used to eating eggs.” He assumed everything round was an egg.
That assumption caused his mistake.**

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



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can write a character's admission."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

"explain the author's purpose and message within a text"

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Read the practice story. Write the one sentence where the character admits the lesson.

A boy who always found his shoes by the door walked outside barefoot one morning because he did not look. His shoes were in the closet.

I CAN | I can write a character's admission that names the mistake.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why having the character admit the lesson is a strong craft move."

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Defend the author's choice.

Why is it more powerful when the Dog admits the lesson instead of having another character or the narrator say it?

The narrator could have said: "The Dog was foolish." Why is the Dog's OWN words better?

I CAN

I can defend why self-admission is a stronger craft move than outside judgment.



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Write your own fable where the character admits the lesson.

Choose an animal that makes an assumption based on habit. Let the character say what went wrong in one sentence.

Choose an animal that makes an assumption.

Show the consequence.

End with one sentence where the character admits 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 “I deserve all this torment, for my folly in thinking that everything round must be an egg.” The Dog admits his own mistake.

CHOOSE **A.** The other choices describe what happened. The message is the Dog’s admission of why it was wrong.

SHOW The Dog always ate eggs, so he assumed anything round was safe. That habit-based assumption caused his mistake.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **“I counted on my shoes being where they always are, and my own habit tricked me.”**

DEFEND When the Dog admits it himself, the reader respects the honesty. A narrator’s judgment would feel imposed. The Dog’s own words show real understanding.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A squirrel always found acorns under the same tree. One day the tree was bare. The squirrel said, **“I put all my trust in one place, and now I have nothing.”**



PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “THE CAMEL AND JUPITER” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“The Camel, when he saw the Bull adorned with horns, envied him and wished that he himself could obtain the same honours. He went to Jupiter, and besought him to give him horns. Jupiter, vexed at his request because he was not satisfied with his size and strength of body, and desired yet more, not only refused to give him horns, but even deprived him of a portion of his ears.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

A Camels should not talk to Jupiter.

B Bulls are more beautiful than camels.

C Horns are better than ears.

D Those who are not satisfied with what they have may lose even more by asking for too much.



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The answer is D.

Camels should not talk to Jupiter.

- A** The story uses Jupiter and the Camel to teach a lesson. The message is about greed, not about who should talk to whom.

Bulls are more beautiful than camels.

- B** The story is not about beauty. It is about wanting more than what you already have.

Horns are better than ears.

- C** The story is not comparing body parts. It is about losing what you have by asking for too much.

Those who are not satisfied with what they have may lose even more by asking for too much.

Correct.

- D** The Camel already had size and strength but wanted horns too. Jupiter took away part of his ears. The author teaches that greed can cost you what you already have.

