

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

Flattery as a Trap

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

The Fox uses false praise to get what he wants. He does not take the meat by force. He uses words. The author shows that flattery can be a trap. This week we read a published fable, notice how the author uses flattery to drive the plot, 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 Fox and the Crow

A Crow having stolen a bit of meat, perched in a tree and held it in her beak. A Fox, seeing this, longed to possess the meat himself, and by a wily stratagem succeeded. “How handsome is the Crow,” he exclaimed, “in the beauty of her shape and in the fairness of her complexion! Oh, if her voice were only equal to her beauty, she would deservedly be considered the Queen of Birds!” This he said deceitfully; but the Crow, anxious to refute the reflection cast upon her voice, set up a loud caw and dropped the flesh. The Fox quickly picked it up, and thus addressed the Crow: “My good Crow, your voice is right enough, but your wit is wanting.”

SOURCE

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



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how flattery drives the plot.”

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 flattery.

Read the fable. Find the sentences where the Fox flatters the Crow.

“How handsome is the Crow, in the beauty of her shape and in the fairness of her complexion! Oh, if her voice were only equal to her beauty, she would deservedly be considered the Queen of Birds!”

I CAN | I can notice how flattery drives the plot.



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”

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

Choose the message.

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

A “How handsome is the Crow, in the beauty of her shape!”

B “A Crow having stolen a bit of meat, perched in a tree.”

C “Your voice is right enough, but your wit is wanting.”

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”

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

Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Crow’s response to flattery prove the Fox’s final message?

The Crow opened her beak to prove she could sing. **She dropped the meat. Her vanity proved the Fox’s point: her wit was wanting.**

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 scene where flattery is a trap.”

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 the flattering words a character uses to get what they want.

A student wanted to borrow another student’s new colored pencils. Instead of asking directly, the student said:

I CAN | I can write a scene where flattery is a trap.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why the author uses flattery instead of force to drive the plot.”

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”

Defend the author’s choice.

Why is a story about flattery more interesting than one where the Fox simply takes the meat?

The Fox could have just grabbed the meat. Why is the flattery trick a better story?

I CAN

I can defend why the author uses flattery instead of force to drive the plot.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own fable about flattery.

Choose a character who uses false praise to get what they want. Show the flattery, the trick, and the lesson.

Choose a character who uses false praise to get what they want.

Show the flattery and the trick.

End with a sentence that names the lesson.

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The Fox praises the Crow's beauty and says only her voice is missing. That flattery is a trap to make the Crow open her beak and drop the meat.

CHOOSE C. The Fox's final words name the real lesson: the Crow had beauty and voice, but lacked wisdom.

SHOW The Crow tried to disprove the Fox and dropped the meat in the process. Her vanity proved the lesson.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"Your drawings are the best in the class. I bet those pencils are amazing. Could I just try one color?"**

DEFEND Flattery makes the Crow choose her own loss. The reader sees how easy it is to fall for praise. That is a more powerful lesson than a simple theft.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A cat told a bird she had the most beautiful feathers in the garden. The bird puffed up with pride and came closer. The cat smiled and said, **"Next time, let your caution be as strong as your vanity."**



PUBLISHED TEXTS

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. But as he still continued to stay, as time went on, the rich man became accustomed to the smell, and feeling no manner of inconvenience, made no further complaints.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Rich people complain too much.
- B** What seems unbearable at first can become familiar with time.
- C** Tanners should move away from their neighbors.
- D** Bad smells go away on their own.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is B.

A Rich people complain too much.

The story is not about rich people in general. It is about how habit changes what bothers us.

What seems unbearable at first can become familiar with time.

B Correct.

The Rich Man hated the smell but got used to it over time. The author teaches that habit can make even unpleasant things feel normal.

C Tanners should move away from their neighbors.

The Tanner did not move. The lesson is about how people adjust, not about who should move.

D Bad smells go away on their own.

The smell did not go away. The Rich Man simply got used to it.

