

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 poems are real poems written by real poets and published for the world to read.

A poet paints pictures with words so the reader can see, hear, and feel something new.

When I study what a poet did, I can try that same craft in my own poem.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Speaking Directly to a Character

from “The Lamplighter” (Robert Louis Stevenson, *A Child’s Garden of Verses*, 1885)

The poet speaks directly to Leerie the lamplighter, calling him by name. This direct address makes the reader feel as if they are overhearing a real conversation. This week we read a published poem, notice how the poet uses direct address, and try that craft move in our own poem.

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

NOTICE • CHOOSE • SHOW • OWN • DEFEND



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Read the published poem.

Read it aloud slowly. Listen to the rhythm and watch for the craft the poet uses.

The Lamplighter

My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky.
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;
For every night at teatime and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.

Now Tom would be a driver and Maria go to sea,
And my papa's a banker and as rich as he can be;

But I, when I am stronger and can choose what I'm to do,
O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with you!

For we are very lucky, with a lamp before the door,
And Leerie stops to light it as he lights so many more;
And oh! before you hurry by with ladder and with light;
O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!

SOURCE

Robert Louis Stevenson, A Child's Garden of Verses, 1885 (Project Gutenberg #136, public domain)



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice when the poet speaks directly to a character.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the direct address.

Read the poem. Find the lines where the speaker talks to Leerie as if he is right there.

“O Leerie, I’ll go round at night and light the lamps with you!”
“O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!”

I CAN | I can notice when the poet speaks directly to a character in the poem.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that best shows direct address.”

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Choose the strongest example.

Which line best shows the poet speaking directly to Leerie?

A “My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky.”

B “O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!”

C “With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.”

I CAN | I can choose the line that best shows direct address.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

"I can show how direct address changes the feeling of the poem."

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 direct address works.

How does talking to Leerie instead of about him change the way the poem feels?

Stanza 1 talks **about Leerie: "he comes posting up the street."**

Stanza 2 talks **to Leerie: "O Leerie, I'll go round at night."**

The shift makes the poem feel **personal and warm.**

I CAN | I can explain how direct address changes the feeling of the poem.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can use direct address in my own poem.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Choose someone you admire. Write two lines that speak directly to that person, the way the speaker talks to Leerie.

**Choose someone you admire (a teacher, a coach, a grandparent).
Write two lines speaking directly to that person.**

I CAN | I can use direct address in my own poem.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why direct address is a stronger craft choice than describing someone from a distance."

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Defend the poet's choice.

Why does talking to Leerie work better than just describing him?

Stevenson could have written: "The lamplighter is a fine man." Why is "O Leerie" better?

I CAN

I can defend why direct address is a stronger craft choice than distant description.



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Write your own poem using direct address.

Choose someone you admire. Write at least four lines that speak directly to them. Use their name or title.

Choose someone you admire.
Write at least four lines speaking directly to them.
Use their name or title.

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 speaker says "O Leerie" twice, talking directly to the lamplighter as if he can hear. That direct address makes the poem feel personal.

CHOOSE **B.** The speaker calls Leerie by name and asks him to nod. B and C describe the scene from a distance.

SHOW The poem shifts from talking about Leerie (stanza 1) to talking to him (stanzas 2-3). That shift makes the admiration feel warm and real.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"O Coach, when you stand at the edge of the field, I promise I will run faster for you."**

DEFEND Direct address creates a relationship. The reader overhears something private. A distant description would feel flat.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: O Grandma, when you sit on the porch and wave, I always feel like everything will be all right. One day, when I am older, I will sit on a porch too and wave, just like you.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “THE ARROW AND THE SONG” (HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW, 1845)

**“I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.**

**I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;**

**For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?**

**Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.”**

What is the poet’s purpose in this poem?

- A** To describe how far arrows and songs can travel.
- B** To warn people not to shoot arrows carelessly.
- C** To show that kindness, like a song, can reach a friend even when you cannot see where it goes.
- D** To explain that arrows last longer than songs.



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The answer is C.

- A To describe how far arrows and songs can travel.**
The poem uses the arrow and song as symbols. The purpose is not about distance.
- B To warn people not to shoot arrows carelessly.**
The arrow is a comparison, not a safety lesson.
- C Correct.**
To show that kindness, like a song, can reach a friend even when you cannot see where it goes.
The arrow is found in an oak, but the song is found in a friend's heart. The poet shows that words of kindness travel farther than we know and land where they are needed.
- D To explain that arrows last longer than songs.**
The arrow is "still unbroke" and the song lives in a friend's heart. Both last, but the song's landing is the point.

