

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 Explains the Wisdom

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

The Fox asks a question. The Boar gives a wise answer. The author lets the prepared character explain why preparation matters. This week we read a published fable, notice how the wise character’s answer delivers 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 Wild Boar and the Fox

A Wild Boar stood under a tree and rubbed his tusks against the trunk. A Fox passing by asked him why he thus sharpened his teeth when there was no danger threatening from either huntsman or hound. He replied, “I do it advisedly; for it would never do to have to sharpen my weapons just at the time I ought to be using them.”

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how a wise character explains 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”

Notice the wisdom.

Read the fable. Find the sentence where the Boar explains why he prepares.

“It would never do to have to sharpen my weapons just at the time I ought to be using them.”

I CAN | I can notice how a wise character explains the message.



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?

A “A Wild Boar stood under a tree and rubbed his tusks against the trunk.”

B “It would never do to have to sharpen my weapons just at the time I ought to be using them.”

C “A Fox passing by asked him why he thus sharpened his teeth.”

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



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 contrast between the Fox’s question and the Boar’s answer prove the message?

The Fox sees **no danger and wonders why the Boar prepares. The Boar explains: **preparation happens BEFORE the danger arrives.****

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 wise answer that delivers the lesson.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Read the practice story. Write the wise character’s answer.

**A friend asked why a student practiced the fire drill when there was no fire.
The student said:**

I CAN | I can write a wise answer that delivers the lesson.

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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why a question-and-answer structure delivers this message well.”

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Defend the author’s choice.

Why does having the Fox ask and the Boar answer work better than just stating the moral?

The author could have written: “Be prepared for danger.” Why is the question-and-answer better?



I can defend why a question-and-answer structure delivers this message well.



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Write your own fable where a wise character answers a question.

Choose a character who does something that looks unnecessary. Let another character ask why. The wise character answers with the lesson.

**Choose a character who does something that looks
unnecessary.**

Let another character ask why.

The wise character answers with 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 “It would never do to have to sharpen my weapons just at the time I ought to be using them.” The Boar explains the wisdom of preparation.

CHOOSE **B.** The Boar’s wise answer is the message: prepare before you need to.

SHOW The Fox sees no danger and is puzzled. The Boar’s answer proves that preparation happens BEFORE the need arrives.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **“If I wait for the fire to learn where the exits are, it will be too late to use them.”**

DEFEND The Fox asks what the reader is thinking. The Boar’s answer satisfies both at once. A flat moral would not engage the reader.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: An ant carried a grain of sand to the top of the hill every morning. A ladybug asked why. The ant said, **“When the rain comes, this hill will hold. The ants who did not build will wish they had.”**



PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE KITES AND THE SWANS” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“The Kites of olden times, as well as the Swans, had the privilege of song. But having heard the neigh of the horse, they were so enchanted with the sound, that they tried to imitate it; and, in trying to neigh, they forgot how to sing.”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Chasing something you admire in others can cost you what you already have.
- B** Horses are better singers than kites.
- C** Kites should practice singing every day.
- D** Only swans can sing.



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The answer is A.

Chasing something you admire in others can cost you what you already have.

Correct.

A

The Kites tried to neigh like horses and lost their ability to sing. The author teaches that imitating others can destroy your own gifts.

B

Horses are better singers than kites.

The story does not compare quality. It is about losing your own ability by chasing someone else's.

C

Kites should practice singing every day.

The lesson is not about practice. It is about the danger of abandoning your own skill to imitate another.

D

Only swans can sing.

The story says both Kites and Swans could sing. The Kites lost that ability by trying to neigh.

