

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

Certain Gain Versus Uncertain Promise

from “The Fisherman and the Little Fish” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

The Fish offers a future reward. The Fisherman chooses what he has now. The author uses the Fisherman’s wise refusal to deliver the message: a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This week we notice how the character’s reasoning delivers the lesson.

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 Fisherman and the Little Fish

A Fisherman who lived on the produce of his nets, one day caught a single small Fish as the result of his day's labor. The Fish, panting convulsively, thus entreated for his life: "O Sir, what good can I be to you, and how little am I worth? I am not yet come to my full size. Pray spare my life, and put me back into the sea. I shall soon become a large fish fit for the tables of the rich, and then you can catch me again, and make a handsome profit of me." The Fisherman replied, "I should indeed be a very simple fellow if, for the chance of a greater uncertain profit, I were to forego my present certain gain."

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how the Fisherman’s reasoning delivers the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the reasoning.

Read the fable. Find the sentence where the Fisherman explains his choice.

“I should indeed be a very simple fellow if, for the chance of a greater uncertain profit, I were to forego my present certain gain.”

I CAN | I can notice how a character’s reasoning delivers the message.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

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

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the message.

Which sentence best states the author’s message?

A “The Fish entreated for his life.”

B “A Fisherman caught a single small Fish.”

C “I should be a simple fellow to forego my present certain gain.”

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

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Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Fish's promise set up the Fisherman's wise response?

The Fish promises: "I shall soon become a large fish." The Fisherman sees through it: the future profit is uncertain, the present gain is real.

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 wise refusal.”

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 wise character’s one-sentence refusal.

A student found a dollar on the ground. Another student said, “Give it to me and I will bring you five dollars tomorrow.” The student replied:

I CAN | I can write a wise refusal that delivers the message.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why the Fisherman’s reasoning is a stronger craft choice than a flat moral.”

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Defend the author’s choice.

Why does the Fisherman’s reasoning work better than the narrator saying “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”?

Why is the Fisherman’s OWN reasoning more persuasive than a proverb?

I CAN | I can defend why a character’s reasoning is stronger than a flat moral.



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Write your own fable about choosing a certain gain over an uncertain promise.

Show a character offered a future reward in exchange for giving up something real. Let the character explain the choice in one sentence.

**Show a character offered a future reward for giving up
something real.
Let the character explain the choice.**

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 should be a simple fellow to forego my present certain gain.” The Fisherman explains his logic.

CHOOSE C. The Fisherman’s reasoning IS the message.

SHOW The Fish promises a large future reward. The Fisherman sees through it. The contrast proves the lesson.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **“I would rather keep the dollar I can see than wait for five I may never get.”**

DEFEND The Fisherman explains WHY, not just WHAT. The reader follows the logic. A proverb would just tell.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A squirrel found one acorn. A jay offered to show her a whole tree of acorns far away. The squirrel said, **“This acorn is in my paw. Your tree might not even be there.”**



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE SWOLLEN FOX” (AESOP, TRANS. TOWNSEND, 1867)

“A very hungry Fox, seeing some bread and meat left by shepherds in the hollow of an oak, crept into the hole and made a hearty meal. When he finished, he was so full that he was not able to get out, and began to groan and lament his fate. Another Fox passing by heard his cries, and coming up, inquired the cause of his complaining. On learning what had happened, he said to him, ‘Ah, you will have to remain there, my friend, until you become such as you were when you crept in, and then you will easily get out.’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Foxes should not eat bread.
- B** Shepherds should guard their food.
- C** Taking more than you need can trap you.
- D** Foxes are not smart enough to avoid traps.

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The answer is C.

A Foxes should not eat bread.

The story is not about what foxes eat. It is about the consequence of taking too much.

B Shepherds should guard their food.

The shepherds are not the point. The message is about the Fox's greed.

Taking more than you need can trap you.

C Correct.

The Fox ate so much he could not get out. The other Fox tells him he must shrink back to his original size. The author teaches that greed creates its own prison.

D Foxes are not smart enough to avoid traps.

The Fox was not trapped by someone else. He trapped himself by eating too much.

