

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

Greed Defeats Itself

from “The Woman and Her Hen” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

The Woman wanted more and got less. The author does not need a character to speak the lesson. The RESULT delivers the message. When the Hen stops laying, the reader understands what greed costs. This week we notice how a consequence can carry the message without a single word of explanation.

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 Woman and Her Hen

A Woman possessed a Hen that gave her an egg every day. She often pondered how she might obtain two eggs daily instead of one, and at last, to gain her purpose, determined to give the Hen a double allowance of barley. From that day the Hen became fat and sleek, and never once laid another egg.

SOURCE

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



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice how the result delivers 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 result.

Read the fable. What is the result of the Woman's plan?

The Hen received a double allowance of barley. "From that day the Hen became fat and sleek, and never once laid another egg."

I CAN | I can notice how the result delivers the message without words.



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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”

“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?

- A** She often pondered how she might obtain two eggs daily.
- B** The Hen became fat and sleek, and never once laid another egg.
- C** A Woman possessed a Hen that gave her an egg every day.

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”

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Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Woman’s plan backfire?

She had one egg every day. She wanted two, so she overfed the Hen. Now she has zero eggs. Greed cost her what she had.

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



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a result that carries 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”

Own it. Try the craft move.

Read the practice story. Write the one-sentence result that delivers the lesson.

A student who earned a B+ on every test decided to copy answers to get an A.

I CAN | I can write a result that carries the message without explanation.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why letting the result speak is stronger than adding a moral at the end.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author’s choice.

Why is “never once laid another egg” a stronger ending than a narrator saying “Greed costs more than it gains”?

The author could have added a moral sentence. Why is the bare result a better ending?

I CAN

I can defend why letting the result speak is a stronger craft choice.



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Write your own fable where greed defeats itself.

Show a character who has something good. Let greed lead to a result that is worse than what they started with. No character needs to speak the lesson.

**Show a character who has something good.
Let greed make it worse.
The result IS the message.**

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 “Never once laid another egg.” The result IS the message. Greed cost the Woman everything.

CHOOSE B. The result (fat Hen, zero eggs) says it all.

SHOW One egg a day became zero. The Woman’s plan to double her gain destroyed what she had.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"The teacher caught the copying, and the student received a zero instead."**

DEFEND The bare result speaks for itself. The reader draws the conclusion alone. That is more powerful than being told.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A gardener had a tree that gave five apples a week. She poured triple the fertilizer, hoping for ten. The roots burned, the leaves browned, and the tree gave nothing at all.



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

“Some Dogs, finding the skin of a lion, began to tear it in pieces with their teeth. A Fox, seeing them, said, ‘If this lion were alive, you would soon find out that his claws were stronger than your teeth.’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

A Dogs are stronger than lions.

B Lion skins are easy to find.

C Foxes always tell the truth.

D It is easy to be brave when there is no real danger.



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The answer is D.

A Dogs are stronger than lions.

The Fox's point is the opposite: the dogs are only brave because the lion is gone.

B Lion skins are easy to find.

The story is not about finding skins. It is about courage that appears only when there is no danger.

C Foxes always tell the truth.

The Fox makes a wise observation, but the lesson is about the Dogs' false bravery.

It is easy to be brave when there is no real danger.

D Correct.

The Dogs attack the lion's skin only because the lion is not alive. The Fox points out that real bravery requires a real threat. The author teaches that courage shown without risk is not real courage.

