

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

Actions Reveal What Words Hide

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

The Hunter asks about the Lion but runs when offered the real thing. His words say one thing; his actions say another. The author lets the gap between words and actions deliver the message. This week we notice how actions reveal what words try to hide.

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 text.

Read it aloud slowly. Watch for the craft move the author uses.

The Hunter and the Woodman

A Hunter, not very bold, was searching for the tracks of a Lion. He asked a man felling oaks in the forest if he had seen any marks of his footsteps or knew where his lair was. “I will,” said the man, “at once show you the Lion himself.” The Hunter, turning very pale and chattering with his teeth from fear, replied, “No, thank you. I did not ask that; it is his track only I am in search of, not the Lion himself.”

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the gap between what a character says and what a character does.”

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Notice the gap.

Read the fable. Find the moment where the Hunter’s words and actions do not match.

Words: He asks where the Lion is. Action: He turns pale and says “I did not ask that; it is his track only I am in search of.”

I CAN | I can notice the gap between what a character says and what a character does.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the sentence that best reveals the Hunter’s true character.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the reveal.

Which sentence best shows who the Hunter really is?

A “It is his track only I am in search of, not the Lion himself.”

B “A Hunter was searching for the tracks of a Lion.”

C “I will at once show you the Lion himself.”

I CAN | I can choose the sentence that best reveals the character’s true nature.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the author sets up the reveal.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Show how the story proves the message.

How does the Woodman’s offer set up the Hunter’s true character?

The Hunter asks about the Lion. The Woodman offers **the real thing. The Hunter backs away. **The offer is the test. The reaction is the truth.****

I CAN | I can explain how the story reveals the character’s true nature.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a moment where actions reveal what words hide.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Try the craft move.

Read the practice story. Write the sentence where the character’s action reveals the truth.

A student told everyone she loved roller coasters. When the group reached the front of the line, she said:

I CAN | I can write a moment where actions reveal the truth.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why actions revealing the truth is a stronger craft move than having a character confess.”

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Defend the author’s choice.

Why is the Hunter’s panicked excuse more powerful than if he simply said “I am afraid”?

The Hunter could have admitted his fear. Why is the excuse more revealing?

I CAN | I can defend why actions revealing the truth is stronger than confession.



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Write your own fable where actions reveal what words hide.

Show a character who claims something brave. Then let a test reveal the truth through their actions, not their words.

**Show a character who claims something brave.
Let a test reveal the truth through actions, not words.**

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 Hunter asks for the Lion's tracks but refuses the real Lion. His words and actions do not match.

CHOOSE **A.** The Hunter's excuse reveals he never wanted to find the Lion.

SHOW The Woodman's offer is the test. The Hunter's retreat is the truth.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"Actually, I just want to hold the bags while you ride."**

DEFEND The excuse tries to save face, which makes the cowardice worse. A confession would be honest. The excuse reveals both fear and pretense.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A cat told the mice he had become a vegetarian. The mice came out to play. But when a piece of cheese rolled across the floor, the cat pounced before anyone could blink.



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

“A Shepherd penning his sheep in the fold for the night was about to shut up a wolf with them, when his Dog perceiving the wolf said, ‘Master, how can you expect the sheep to be safe if you admit a wolf into the fold?’”

What message does the author want the reader to learn?

- A** Dogs are smarter than shepherds.
- B** You cannot protect what you value if you let a threat inside.
- C** Wolves always look like sheep.
- D** Shepherds should not use dogs.



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The answer is B.

A Dogs are smarter than shepherds.
The Dog sees the wolf, but the message is about letting danger in, not about intelligence.

B You cannot protect what you value if you let a threat inside.
Correct.
The Shepherd almost locked a wolf in with his sheep. The Dog asks how the sheep can be safe with a wolf among them. The author teaches that admitting a known threat defeats your own protection.

C Wolves always look like sheep.
The story does not say the wolf was disguised. The Shepherd simply did not notice it.

D Shepherds should not use dogs.
The Dog saved the situation. The lesson is about watchfulness, not about dogs.

