

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

Dialogue That Delivers the Lesson

from “The Trees Under the Protection of the Gods” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

The gods argue about which tree deserves protection. Minerva picks the olive because it bears fruit. Jupiter answers with the fable’s lesson: “unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain.” The message arrives through a character’s own words.

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 Trees Under the Protection of the Gods

THE GODS, according to an ancient legend, made choice of certain trees to be under their special protection. Jupiter chose the oak, Venus the myrtle, Apollo the laurel, Cybele the pine, and Hercules the poplar. Minerva, wondering why they had preferred trees not yielding fruit, inquired the reason for their choice. Jupiter replied, “It is lest we should seem to covet the honour for the fruit.” But said Minerva, “Let anyone say what he will the olive is more dear to me on account of its fruit.” Then said Jupiter, “My daughter, you are rightly called wise; for unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain.”

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the sentence where the character delivers the author’s message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the message.

Read the fable. Find the sentence where Jupiter states the lesson.

“My daughter, you are rightly called wise; **for unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain.”**

I CAN | I can notice the sentence where Jupiter delivers the author’s 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

“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? Use the fable to decide.

A “Jupiter chose the oak, Venus the myrtle.”

B “The olive is more dear to me on account of its fruit.”

C “Unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain.”

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



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how the fable proves the message.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“explain the author’s purpose and message within a text”

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Show how the fable proves the message.

How does the contrast between the gods’ choices and Minerva’s choice prove the message about usefulness?

The other gods pick beautiful trees. Minerva picks the olive because it bears fruit. Jupiter calls her wise. The contrast proves that usefulness outweighs beauty alone.

I CAN | I can show how the contrast between the gods’ choices proves the message.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a short dialogue where a character delivers the lesson.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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“compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft”

Own it. Try the craft move.

Write a short dialogue (two or three speakers) where one character explains why something useful matters more than something that only looks impressive. End with a sentence that states the lesson.

Write a short dialogue.

One character defends something useful. Another defends something impressive.

End with a sentence that states the lesson, the way Jupiter does.

I CAN | I can write my own dialogue where a character delivers the lesson.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why the author uses dialogue to deliver 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"

Defend the author's choice.

The author could have written, "Usefulness matters more than glory." Why is Jupiter saying the lesson inside the story more powerful?

"Unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain."

Why does hearing it from Jupiter inside the story hit harder than a statement outside the story?

I CAN

I can defend why the author uses dialogue instead of stating the lesson directly.



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Write your own fable with a dialogue that delivers the lesson.

Choose two or three characters who disagree about what matters. Let one of them state the lesson in their own words at the end.

Choose characters who disagree about what matters.

Let them talk it out.

End with one character stating the lesson, the way Jupiter does.

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 Jupiter says, "for unless what we do is useful, the glory of it is vain." That final sentence is the fable's message, delivered through a character's own words.

CHOOSE C. Jupiter's statement is the lesson. B lists what the gods chose. C is Minerva's reason, not the message itself.

SHOW The other gods choose beauty. Minerva chooses usefulness. Jupiter calls her wise. The contrast proves usefulness outweighs empty glory.

OWN Answers vary. One example: "The hammer said, 'I am the strongest.' The nail said, 'Without me, nothing holds.' The carpenter said, 'Strength means nothing if it cannot hold things together.'"

DEFEND A character speaking inside the story carries authority. Jupiter watched Minerva prove the point, then named the truth. A rule on a page tells. A god in a story shows.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: "The crown argued with the plow. 'I am beautiful,' said the crown. 'I feed the kingdom,' said the plow. The farmer said, 'A hungry kingdom has no use for a crown.'"



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “TO ANY READER” (ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, A CHILD’S GARDEN OF VERSES, 1885)

“So you may see, if you will look / Through the windows of this book, / Another child, far, far away, / And in another garden, play. / But do not think you can at all, / By knocking on the window, call / That child to hear you.”

What is the poet’s purpose?

A To describe a garden outside a house.

B To show that reading lets you see into another world, but you cannot reach the people inside it.

C To warn children not to knock on windows.

D To explain how mothers watch their children play.



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The answer is B.

To describe a garden outside a house.

- A** The garden is a comparison, not the purpose. The poet uses it to explain how reading a book is like looking through a window at another world.

To show that reading lets you see into another world, but you cannot reach the people inside it.

- B** **Correct.**
The poet compares a book to a window. You can see the child playing, but you cannot call to him. Reading connects you to another life, but the connection is one way.

To warn children not to knock on windows.

- C** The knocking is a figure of speech. The poet means that no matter how real a book feels, you cannot enter its world.

To explain how mothers watch their children play.

- D** The mother watching is the starting comparison, not the message. The purpose is about how books let us observe lives we can never touch.

