

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

Change of Mind Delivers the Lesson

from “The Dog’s House” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

The Dog makes a plan when he is cold, then abandons it when he is comfortable. His change of mind IS the lesson: comfort makes us forget the need we felt before. The author lets the character’s own decision teach the reader.

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 Dog's House

IN THE WINTERTIME, a Dog curled up in as small a space as possible on account of the cold, determined to make himself a house. However when the summer returned again, he lay asleep stretched at his full length and appeared to himself to be of a great size. Now he considered that it would be neither an easy nor a necessary work to make himself such a house as would accommodate him.

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how the Dog’s change of mind delivers 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”

Notice the change of mind.

Read the fable. What does the Dog decide in winter? What does he decide in summer? What does the change reveal?

Winter: “determined to make himself a house.”
Summer: “it would be neither an easy **nor a necessary work.”**
The same Dog, two opposite decisions.

I CAN | I can notice how the Dog’s change of mind from winter to summer delivers the lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the detail that best explains the Dog’s reason for changing his mind.”

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 turning point.

Which detail best explains WHY the Dog changes his mind?

A “He lay asleep stretched at his full length and appeared to himself to be of a great size.”

B “A Dog curled up in as small a space as possible.”

C “The summer returned again.”

I CAN | I can choose the detail that explains why the Dog changes his mind.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

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"

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

Show how the fable proves the message.

How do the Dog's two opposite decisions prove that comfort makes us forget our needs?

Cold Dog: "determined to make himself a house."

Warm Dog: "neither an easy nor a necessary work."

Nothing changed except the weather and the Dog's comfort.

I CAN

I can show how the two decisions prove the message about comfort and forgetfulness.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can write a short fable where a character’s change of mind delivers the lesson.”

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.

Write a short story (three to five sentences) where a character makes a plan during a hard time, then abandons it when things get easier. Let the change of mind carry your message.

Write a short story.

A character makes a plan during a hard time.

The character abandons the plan when things get easier.

Let the change of mind teach the reader the lesson.

I CAN

I can write a short fable where a character’s change of mind delivers the lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why the author lets the character's decision teach the lesson instead of stating it."

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, "Do not let comfort make you forget your needs." Why is showing the Dog's change of mind more powerful?

Winter: "determined." Summer: "not necessary."
Why is watching the Dog change his own mind more powerful than a rule?

I CAN

I can defend why the author uses the character's change of mind instead of a stated lesson.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own fable about a character who forgets a plan.

Create a character who makes an important plan during a hard time. Show how comfort causes the character to abandon the plan. Let the reader see the lesson in the character's own choice.

**Create a character who makes a plan during a hard time.
Show how comfort makes the character forget.
Let the change of mind teach the reader the lesson.**

I CAN | I can write my own story and use the craft move we studied all week.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE In winter the Dog was cold and determined to build. In summer he felt large and decided it was unnecessary. His flip reveals the message: comfort erases the memory of need.

CHOOSE A. Feeling large and comfortable is the turning point. The Dog's self-image, not the weather itself, causes him to abandon his plan.

SHOW Same dog, same need, opposite decisions. The only thing that changed was his comfort. That proves comfort can make us forget what we truly need.

OWN Answers vary. One example: "A bird shivered on a branch all winter and vowed to build a warmer nest. When spring arrived, the sun was so warm she forgot. The next winter she shivered again."

DEFEND Watching the Dog forget is more powerful than hearing a rule because the reader recognizes the pattern in their own life. The lesson arrives through self-recognition, not instruction.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: "An ant who nearly ran out of food promised to dig a deeper pantry. Summer was so easy she spent her time playing instead. When the rains came, her pantry was as shallow as before."

PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE CITY MOUSE LIVES IN A HOUSE” (CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, SING-SONG, 1893)

“The city mouse lives in a house; / The garden mouse lives in a bower, / He’s friendly with the frogs and toads, / And sees the pretty plants in flower. / The city mouse eats bread and cheese; / The garden mouse eats what he can; / We will not grudge him seeds and stalks, / Poor little timid furry man.”

What is the poet’s purpose?

- A** To explain where mice live.
- B** To compare two ways of living and suggest the simpler life has its own richness.
- C** To argue that city mice are lonely.
- D** To teach children about what mice eat.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is B.

To explain where mice live.

- A** The poem names two places, but the purpose goes deeper. The poet contrasts the two lives to show that the simpler one has its own richness.

To compare two ways of living and suggest the simpler life has its own richness.

Correct.

- B** The city mouse has a house and bread. The garden mouse has a bower, frogs, and flowers. The poet says "we will not grudge him," showing tenderness for the simpler life. The comparison reveals that richness is not about possessions.

To argue that city mice are lonely.

- C** The poem does not say the city mouse is lonely. It simply contrasts two lives without calling either one bad.

To teach children about what mice eat.

- D** The food details support the comparison, but the purpose is not a science lesson. It is about two ways of living and which one the poet admires.

