

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

Gratitude Shown Through Action

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

The Eagle does not say thank you. He saves the Peasant’s life by pulling him away from a collapsing wall. The author shows gratitude through action, not words. This week we notice how a character’s ACTION delivers the message better than any speech.

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 Peasant and the Eagle

A Peasant found an Eagle captured in a trap, and much admiring the bird, set him free. The Eagle did not prove ungrateful to his deliverer, for seeing the Peasant sitting under a wall which was not safe, he flew toward him and with his talons snatched a bundle from his head. When the Peasant rose in pursuit, the Eagle let the bundle fall again. Taking it up, the man returned to the same place, to find that the wall under which he had been sitting had fallen to pieces; and he marveled at the service rendered him by the Eagle.

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how the Eagle shows gratitude through action, not words.”

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Notice the action.

What does the Eagle do instead of saying thank you?

The Eagle *snatches the Peasant’s bundle* to lure him away from a *wall about to collapse*. That action is the thank-you.

I CAN | I can notice how the Eagle shows gratitude through action, not words.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the line that best states the message.”

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Choose the message.

Which best states the author’s message?

A A Peasant found an Eagle captured in a trap.

B The Eagle snatched a bundle to lure the Peasant away from danger.

C The wall had fallen to pieces.

I CAN | I can choose the line that best states the message.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

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

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Show how it proves the message.

How does the Eagle’s wordless action prove the message about gratitude?

How does the Eagle’s wordless action prove the message about gratitude?

I CAN | I can show how the text proves the message.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can try the craft move myself.”

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 moment where a character shows gratitude through action, not words.

Show gratitude through **action, not words.**

I CAN | I can try the craft move myself.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why this craft move works."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

Why does the Eagle's silent rescue work better than a spoken thank-you?

Why does the Eagle's silent rescue work better than a spoken thank-you?

I CAN | I can defend why this craft move works.



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Write your own fable about gratitude shown through action.

Show a character who received a kindness. Let them repay it with an action, not words.

A kindness received. A wordless action that repays it.

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 Eagle snatches the bundle to save the Peasant. Action, not words.

CHOOSE B. The Eagle's rescue IS the gratitude.

SHOW Wordless, costly action proves gratitude is real.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"She never said thank you, but every morning she left a warm muffin on his desk."**

DEFEND A spoken thanks is easy. An action that costs something proves the feeling.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: A mouse untangled a hawk from a net. Weeks later, the hawk dropped a seed onto the mouse's bare ground. That seed grew into the only tree for miles.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “HEARTSEASE IN MY GARDEN BED” (CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, SING-SONG, 1893)

**“Heartsease in my garden bed,
With sweetwilliam white and red,
Carnation, lily, rose,
And the bush that no one knows.”**

What is the poet’s purpose in this poem?

- A** To list all the flowers in a garden.
- B** To show that a garden holds both the familiar and the unknown.
- C** To teach the names of garden plants.
- D** To describe only red and white flowers.

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The answer is B.

A To list all the flowers in a garden.

The poet lists a few, but the last line (“the bush that no one knows”) suggests mystery, not a catalog.

B To show that a garden holds both the familiar and the unknown.

Correct.

The poet names well-known flowers, then adds “the bush that no one knows.” That last line changes the poem from a list to a mystery.

C To teach the names of garden plants.

The poem is not a lesson. The unknown bush is the surprise that gives the poem its point.

D To describe only red and white flowers.

The poem includes many colors and ends with a mystery, not a color description.

