

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

The Question That Exposes the Fraud

from “The Quack Frog” (Aesop, trans. George Fyler Townsend, 1867)

The Fox does not argue with the Frog. He asks one question that exposes the gap between the Frog’s claims and his reality. One well-aimed question can do more than a thousand arguments. This week we notice how a single question delivers the message.

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 Quack Frog

A Frog once upon a time came forth from his home in the marsh and proclaimed to all the beasts that he was a learned physician, skilled in the use of drugs and able to heal all. A Fox asked him, “How can you pretend to prescribe for others, when you are unable to heal your own lame gait and wrinkled skin?”

SOURCE

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the question that exposes the fraud.”

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 question.

Find the Fox’s question.

“How can you pretend to prescribe for others, when you are unable to heal your own lame gait and wrinkled skin?”

I CAN | I can notice the question that exposes the fraud.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

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

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the message.

Which best states the author’s message?

A “A Frog came forth and proclaimed he was a physician.”

B “How can you prescribe for others when you cannot heal yourself?”

C “He was skilled in the use of drugs.”

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



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

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

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how it proves the message.

How does the Frog’s own appearance undermine his claim?

How does the Frog’s own appearance undermine his claim?

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



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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 single question that exposes a gap between a claim and reality.

One question that **exposes the gap.**

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 is one question more powerful than calling the Frog a liar?

Why is one question more powerful than calling the Frog a liar?

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



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Write your own fable where one question exposes a fraud.

Show a character making a big claim. Let another character ask one question that reveals the truth.

Big claim. One question that reveals the truth.

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 Fox's question is the message: heal yourself before claiming to heal others.

CHOOSE B. The question exposes the gap.

SHOW Lamé gait, wrinkled skin. The Frog's body contradicts his words.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **"If you are such a good organizer, why is your own desk a mess?"**

DEFEND One question that cannot be answered is more devastating than any argument.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: An owl told the forest he could see in the dark better than any creature. A bat flew by and asked, "Then why did you bump into that branch last night?"



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “SWIFT AND SURE THE SWALLOW” (CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, SING-SONG, 1893)

**“Swift and sure the swallow,
Slow and sure the snail:
Slow and sure may miss his way,
Swift and sure may fail.”**

What is the poet’s purpose?

- A** To compare birds and snails.
- B** To argue that speed is always better.
- C** To show that neither speed nor caution guarantees success.
- D** To describe how swallows fly.

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The answer is C.

A To compare birds and snails.

The swallow and snail are symbols. The purpose is about speed and certainty.

B To argue that speed is always better.

The poet says the swift may fail. Speed is not guaranteed to win.

C To show that neither speed nor caution guarantees success.

Correct.

The swallow (swift and sure) may fail. The snail (slow and sure) may miss the way. The poet teaches that no approach is perfect.

D To describe how swallows fly.

The swallow is a symbol, not the subject of a nature lesson.

