

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“revise drafts to improve sentence structure and word choice by adding, deleting, combining, and rearranging ideas for coherence and clarity”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Authors choose each word on purpose to say exactly what they mean.

When I notice a strong word, I ask what it shows and why the author chose it.

Choosing precise words makes my own writing clear and interesting.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Specific Nouns

from “**The Mystery of the Traveling Shell**”

A specific noun names exactly which person, place, thing, or idea, instead of a general word like thing or place.

This deck teaches **word choice** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice a specific noun.”

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Notice the specific noun.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the specific noun the author chose.

“Inside rested a small, pearly seashell.”

I CAN I can notice the specific noun an author chooses.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

"I can choose the strongest word."

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Choose the strongest word.

Read the sentence. Which word is the most specific noun?

"Another museum panel described copper objects found at Poverty Point."

A. panel B. copper C. objects

I CAN I can choose the specific noun and explain how I know.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can explain what a word shows.”

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Show what the word does.

What does the underlined word help the reader understand?

“Another museum panel described copper objects found at Poverty Point.”

I CAN I can explain what the author's word helps the reader picture or feel.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can revise with a stronger word."

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Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the general noun with a specific noun.

Plain sentence: Emsy wrote things in her book.

Replace the word things with a stronger word.

I CAN I can revise a plain sentence by choosing a stronger word.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can explain why the author chose a word.”

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Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose backpack instead of bag?

“Emsy pulled a miniature notebook from her backpack.”

Why backpack and not bag?

I CAN I can explain why an author's word choice is better than a plain word.

Find a specific noun on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more specific noun. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more specific noun.

**Copy the exact words. Then explain what the word shows
and why the author chose it.**

I CAN I can find a specific noun and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

seashell. Seashell names the exact type of object Emsy sees instead of a vague word like thing or item.

CHOOSE

B. copper. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

Copper names the exact metal. A plain word like metal would not tell the reader what kind was found.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Emsy wrote clues in her notebook.

DEFEND

Backpack names the exact kind of bag Emsy uses. The plain word bag could mean a grocery bag or a shopping bag, so the reader would not picture a school supply on her back.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Fourth, archaeologists had discovered other materials, including copper, that also came from distant locations.” The word archaeologists works well. Archaeologists names.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

She studied the coastline, located Poverty Point, and traced the distance between them with one finger. Then she checked the map scale.

Which word could replace 'coastline' and keep almost the same meaning?

A border

B edge

C shoreline

D outline

The answer is C.

- A border**
Border means a dividing line between areas. It does not name where land meets the ocean.
- B edge**
Edge is too vague. It could mean the edge of a table or a page, not specifically where land meets water.
- C shoreline**
Correct. Shoreline means the place where land meets water, which keeps almost the same meaning as coastline in the excerpt.
- D outline**
Outline means the outer shape of something. It does not refer to where land meets the ocean.