

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

Vivid Adjectives

from “**The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth**”

A vivid adjective describes a noun with exact detail so the reader can picture it clearly.

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 vivid adjective.”

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Notice the vivid adjective.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the vivid describing word the author chose.

“Life on the ship was crowded and uncomfortable.”

I CAN I can notice the vivid adjective 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 author's vivid adjective?

"Life on the ship was crowded and uncomfortable."

A. Life B. crowded C. uncomfortable

I CAN I can choose the vivid adjective 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?

“Life on the ship was crowded and uncomfortable.”

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 weak describing word with a vivid adjective.

Plain sentence: The weather was bad.

Replace the word bad 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 harsh instead of bad?

“Winter in Plymouth was harsh.”

Why harsh and not bad?

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

Find a vivid adjective on your own.

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

Go back to the reading.

Find one more vivid adjective.

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

I CAN I can find a vivid adjective and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

uncomfortable. Uncomfortable paints a picture of cramped, miserable conditions where no one can rest or relax properly.

CHOOSE

B. crowded. It describes a noun with exact detail the reader can picture.

SHOW

Crowded paints a clear picture of too many people pressed together in a small space on the ship.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The weather was freezing.

DEFEND

Harsh paints a picture of bitter, dangerous cold that made survival difficult. The plain word bad is too weak to show how severe the winter truly was.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Storms caused the ship to rock back and forth on rough water.” The word rough works well. Rough paints a picture of bumpy, choppy water that made the ocean crossing.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Small groups explored the area looking for forests, fresh water, rich soil, and safe harbors. These natural resources would help the settlers survive.

Why does the author most likely use the word 'rich' to describe the soil?

- A** It shows the soil had nutrients for growing crops.
- B** It means the soil was very expensive to buy from others.
- C** It shows the soil was brightly colored and easy to see.
- D** It means the settlers found gold hidden in the dirt.

The answer is A.

- A** **It shows the soil had nutrients for growing crops.**
Correct. Rich describes soil full of nutrients, helping crops grow in that area.
- B** **It means the soil was very expensive to buy from others.**
Rich can mean expensive, but here it describes the quality of the soil, not its price.
- C** **It shows the soil was brightly colored and easy to see.**
Rich does not describe color in this passage. It describes how full of nutrients the soil was.
- D** **It means the settlers found gold hidden in the dirt.**
Nothing in the excerpt mentions gold. Rich describes the quality of the soil for farming.