

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 Pilgrims Chose Plymouth**”

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.

“The Pilgrims traveled on a ship called the Mayflower.”

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?

"Farmers planted crops such as corn, beans, squash, wheat, and barley."

A. Farmers B. barley C. planted

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?

“Farmers planted crops such as corn, beans, squash, wheat, and barley.”

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: The settlers used stuff to build things.

Replace the word stuff 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 construction sites instead of places?

“Workers chopped trees and carried wood to construction sites.”

Why construction sites and not places?

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

Mayflower. Mayflower names the exact ship the Pilgrims used instead of just saying the ship or a boat.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Barley names a specific crop instead of a vague word like food or grain.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The settlers used lumber to build shelters.

DEFEND

Construction sites names exactly where the workers brought wood. The plain word places does not tell the reader what was happening there or why the wood was needed.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Streams provided fresh water for drinking and farming.” The word Streams works well. Streams names the specific type of water source instead of a vague word like water or.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

The Pilgrims reached the coast near present-day Massachusetts. Winter was beginning, so the settlers needed to find a place to settle quickly.

Why does the author use the word ‘Massachusetts’ instead of a general word like place?

- A** It tells the reader the journey was long.
- B** It makes the passage sound more exciting.
- C** It tells the reader exactly where the Pilgrims landed.
- D** It shows the settlers were already familiar with the area.

The answer is C.

- A** **It tells the reader the journey was long.**
Massachusetts is a location name, not a detail about how far the Pilgrims traveled.
- B** **It makes the passage sound more exciting.**
A place name does not add excitement. It adds specific information about location.
- C** **It tells the reader exactly where the Pilgrims landed.**
Correct. Massachusetts names the exact location so the reader knows precisely where the Pilgrims arrived.
- D** **It shows the settlers were already familiar with the area.**
Naming a place does not mean the Pilgrims had been there before.