

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 “**Life Along the Nile River**”

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.

“When the floodwaters moved back down, they left behind dark, rich soil along the riverbanks.”

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?

“Fishermen used nets and boats to catch fish from the river.”

A. nets B. boats C. fish

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?

“Fishermen used nets and boats to catch fish from the river.”

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: People used things to catch food.

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 pyramids instead of buildings?

“Builders used stone from nearby areas to create temples, statues, and pyramids.”

Why pyramids and not buildings?

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

riverbanks. Riverbanks names the exact place along the river where the soil was left. A plain word like edges is too vague.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Nets names the exact tool fishermen used instead of a vague word like equipment or things.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Fishermen used nets to catch fish.

DEFEND

Pyramids names a specific structure found in ancient Egypt. The plain word buildings is too vague and could mean any type of structure anywhere in the world.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Farmers planted crops such as wheat and barley in the rich soil near the Nile.” The word wheat works well. Wheat names a specific crop instead of a vague word like food.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Families often lived in homes made from mud bricks near the riverbanks. Communities worked together during planting and harvest seasons.

Why does the author use the words 'mud bricks' instead of a general word like materials?

- A** It shows the homes were large and well decorated.
- B** It helps the reader picture the building supplies.
- C** It proves that the families who lived there were rich.
- D** It means the homes were easy to build from the start.

The answer is B.

- A** **It shows the homes were large and well decorated.**
Mud bricks tells what the homes were made of, not how big they were.
- B** **It helps the reader picture the building supplies.**
Correct. Mud bricks names the exact material, so the reader can picture the homes.
- C** **It proves that the families who lived there were rich.**
Mud bricks were a common material, not a sign of wealth.
- D** **It means the homes were easy to build from the start.**
The excerpt does not say whether mud brick homes were easy or hard to build.