

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

Connotation

from “Carmen Lomas Garza”

Connotation is the feeling a word carries. Two words can mean almost the same thing but feel positive or negative.

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 word with a strong feeling.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the word with a strong feeling.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the word that carries a strong feeling.

“Her paintings and books continue to inspire students, teachers, families, and museum visitors.”

I CAN I can notice the word with a strong feeling 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 carries the strongest feeling?

“She believed that ordinary experiences were important and deserved to be remembered.”

A. believed B. deserved C. remembered

I CAN I can choose the word with a strong feeling 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?

“She believed that ordinary experiences were important and deserved to be remembered.”

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."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the neutral word with a word that carries a clear feeling.

Plain sentence: People did stuff for their town.

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 committed instead of interested?

“Even as her career grew, Garza remained committed to the subjects that mattered most to her.”

Why committed and not interested?

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

Find a word with a strong feeling on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more word with a strong feeling. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more word with a strong feeling.

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

I CAN I can find a word with a strong feeling and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

inspire. Inspire carries a strong, uplifting positive feeling. It shows her work fills people with motivation and admiration.

CHOOSE

B. deserved. It carries a clear positive or negative feeling, not just a plain meaning.

SHOW

Deserved carries a strong positive feeling, suggesting these memories have earned the right to be kept and valued.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: People contributed to their community.

DEFEND

Committed carries a deeply positive feeling showing Garza was devoted to her subjects. The plain word interested is weak and does not show that strong loyalty.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Visitors appreciated the way her paintings celebrated family traditions and community experiences.” The word celebrated works well. Celebrated carries a joyful, positive.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

When people see their experiences reflected in books and artwork, they feel recognized and valued. Representation helps individuals understand that their stories matter and deserve to be shared.

The word ‘valued’ suggests that people feel

- A** surprised by what they notice in the artwork on display
- B** confused about the meaning of the paintings they viewed
- C** curious to learn more about art history
- D** respected and important because their stories matter

The answer is D.

- A surprised by what they notice in the artwork on display**
Surprised means caught off guard. Valued describes a feeling of being respected, not shocked.
- B confused about the meaning of the paintings they viewed**
Confused means not understanding. Valued is about feeling worthy, not puzzled.
- C curious to learn more about art history**
Curious means wanting to know more. Valued is about feeling important, not seeking information.
- D respected and important because their stories matter**
Correct. Valued means people feel their experiences are worthy and appreciated.