

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 “Why We Need Laws”

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.

“Voices grew loud like clashing, noisy rings.”

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?

“Strong voices won while quiet ones stayed brittle.”

A. Strong B. brittle C. quiet

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?

“Strong voices won while quiet ones stayed brittle.”

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 neutral word with a word that carries a clear feeling.

Plain sentence: The town became a good place to live.

Replace the word good 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 trust instead of quiet?

"The town became a place where trust could grow, Because the laws helped everyone to know."

Why trust and not quiet?

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

clashing. Clashing carries a negative feeling of harsh conflict, showing the voices sounded angry and out of control.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Brittle carries a negative feeling of weakness, suggesting the quiet voices could easily break or be ignored.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The town became a peaceful place to live.

DEFEND

Trust carries a positive feeling of safety and reliability. The plain word quiet only means silent, so it does not show that people feel safe, honest, and connected to one another.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “And fairness often seemed to tumble down.” The word tumble works well. Tumble carries a negative feeling of falling apart, showing that fairness was lost and things felt.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

They help protect freedoms people hold dear, And support communities year after year.

The word 'dear' helps the reader understand that people

- A** care deeply about their freedoms
- B** do not understand their freedoms
- C** rarely think about their freedoms
- D** want to change their freedoms

The answer is A.

care deeply about their freedoms

- A** Correct. Dear means something people treasure and value greatly, showing they feel strongly about protecting their freedoms.

do not understand their freedoms

- B** Dear shows people value their freedoms, not that they are confused about them.

rarely think about their freedoms

- C** Dear means the opposite. People hold these freedoms close because they think about them often.

want to change their freedoms

- D** Hold dear means wanting to keep something, not wanting to change it.