

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 “Henry Ford: Visionary of Travel”

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.”

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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.

“Only wealthy individuals could usually afford to buy one.”

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?

"Henry remained committed to his vision."

A. remained B. committed C. vision

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?

“Henry remained committed to his vision.”

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 was away from other places.

Replace the word away 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 isolated instead of far?

“Communities that were once isolated became more connected to surrounding areas.”

Why isolated and not far?

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

wealthy. Wealthy carries a feeling of having much more than enough money, stronger than just saying they had money.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Committed carries a strong positive feeling of loyalty and dedication, showing Henry would not give up on his dream.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The town was isolated from other places.

DEFEND

Isolated carries a feeling of being completely cut off and alone. The plain word far only tells about distance and does not show the loneliness communities felt before automobiles connected them.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The Model T was strong, simple, and much more affordable than many other automobiles.” The word affordable works well. Affordable carries a positive, welcoming feeling.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Instead of accepting that automobiles were only for wealthy people, he worked to make them available to ordinary families. His willingness to think differently helped create lasting change.

The word ‘ordinary’ helps the reader understand that Ford wanted to help

- A** only the richest families in America
- B** everyday families who were not wealthy
- C** people who already owned automobiles
- D** business owners who sold cars

The answer is B.

- A** **only the richest families in America**
The excerpt contrasts ordinary families with wealthy people, so Ford wanted to help those who were not rich.
- B** **everyday families who were not wealthy**
Correct. Ordinary means regular, everyday people, showing Ford's goal was to help families who could not afford expensive cars.
- C** **people who already owned automobiles**
Ford wanted to reach people who did not own cars yet, not those who already had them.
- D** **business owners who sold cars**
Ordinary refers to regular families, not business owners.