

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 “**Sam Walton: Visionary of Retail**”

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.

“He opened a small store in Rogers, Arkansas called Walmart.”

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?

“Money was often tight, and young Sam helped by delivering newspapers, milking cows, and doing small jobs to earn extra money.”

A. delivering B. newspapers C. milking

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?

“Money was often tight, and young Sam helped by delivering newspapers, milking cows, and doing small jobs to earn extra money.”

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: Sam sold stuff at his place.

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 toys instead of items?

“They could buy clothing, household supplies, toys, and other products without spending as much as they might at other stores.”

Why toys and not items?

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

Rogers, Arkansas. Rogers, Arkansas names the exact city and state where the first store opened instead of just saying a town.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Newspapers names the specific item Sam delivered instead of a vague word like things or stuff.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Sam sold groceries at his store.

DEFEND

Toys names a specific type of product that families could buy at lower prices. The plain word items does not help the reader picture what was on the shelves.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Workers were needed to stock shelves, help customers, manage inventory, and operate registers.” The word registers works well. Registers names the specific machines.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

He was born in 1918, and as a child he watched his family work hard during the Great Depression.

Why does the author use the words 'Great Depression' instead of a general phrase like hard times?

- A** It makes the passage sound more dramatic.
- B** It shows that Sam's family was the only one struggling.
- C** It names the exact period when many families struggled.
- D** It proves that Sam's family was very poor.

The answer is C.

- A** **It makes the passage sound more dramatic.**
The author uses this term to name a real historical period, not to add drama.
- B** **It shows that Sam's family was the only one struggling.**
The Great Depression affected many people across the country, not just Sam's family.
- C** **It names the exact period when many families struggled.**
Correct. Great Depression names a specific time in history, helping the reader understand the widespread challenges.
- D** **It proves that Sam's family was very poor.**
The term names a historical period, not the exact level of Sam's family income.