

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 “Crash”

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.

“She felt embarrassed.”

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?

“Amina immediately felt relieved.”

A. immediately B. relieved C. felt

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?

“Amina immediately felt relieved.”

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: Amina felt bad about the accident.

Replace the word bad 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 honest instead of right?

“Deep down, Amina knew that staying silent would not be honest.”

Why honest and not right?

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

embarrassed. Embarrassed carries a strong negative feeling of shame and wanting to hide after doing something in front of others.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Relieved carries a warm positive feeling of stress going away, showing Amina felt much better after telling the truth.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: Amina felt guilty about the accident.

DEFEND

Honest carries a strong positive feeling of being truthful and trustworthy. The plain word right is too vague and does not capture the moral courage it took for Amina to speak up.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Instead, she seemed proud that Amina had admitted what happened.” The word proud works well. Proud carries a warm positive feeling, showing Mrs. Ramirez admires Amina's.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Taking a deep breath, she slowly raised her hand. “I’m sorry, Mrs. Ramirez,” she said. “I bumped the table and knocked it over. I didn’t mean to.”

The word ‘sorry’ helps the reader understand that Amina

- A** is angry at her classmates for watching her
- B** thinks the accident was not important at all
- C** wants the teacher to blame someone else instead
- D** feels regret and wants to take responsibility

The answer is D.

- A is angry at her classmates for watching her**
Sorry shows regret, not anger. Amina is apologizing, not blaming others.
- B thinks the accident was not important at all**
If Amina thought it was not important, she would not feel sorry or raise her hand to confess.
- C wants the teacher to blame someone else instead**
Sorry means Amina takes responsibility. She does not try to shift blame.
- D feels regret and wants to take responsibility**
Correct. Sorry shows Amina genuinely feels bad and is choosing to admit what she did.