

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 “A Promise Written Long Ago”

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.

“At that time, kings held tremendous power.”

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?

“Today, this idea may seem ordinary, but in 1215 it was groundbreaking.”

A. ordinary B. groundbreaking C. seem

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?

“Today, this idea may seem ordinary, but in 1215 it was groundbreaking.”

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 new rule was a good idea.

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 frustration instead of unhappiness?

"As frustration grew, trust in the king began to decline."

Why frustration and not unhappiness?

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

tremendous. Tremendous carries a feeling of something overwhelming and almost too large, showing how much power kings had.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Groundbreaking carries a strong positive feeling of something so new it changes everything.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The new rule was a revolutionary idea.

DEFEND

Frustration carries a feeling of being stuck and unable to change an unfair situation. The plain word unhappiness would not show that people felt blocked and powerless.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “As centuries passed, the Magna Carta became more than just an agreement between a king and a group of barons. It became a symbol of freedom, fairness, and accountability.”.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

He spent large amounts of money fighting wars against neighboring countries. Many of these military campaigns ended unsuccessfully, causing England to lose territory and influence.

The word 'unsuccessfully' helps the reader understand that the military campaigns

- A** did not achieve what the king hoped for
- B** lasted only a short time
- C** were fought against powerful armies
- D** were popular with the people of England

The answer is A.

- A did not achieve what the king hoped for**
Correct. Unsuccessfully means without success, so the wars did not bring the results the king wanted.
- B lasted only a short time**
The word describes the outcome, not how long the campaigns lasted.
- C were fought against powerful armies**
The excerpt does not describe the strength of the opposing armies.
- D were popular with the people of England**
The excerpt says the king lost territory, not that people supported the wars.