

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 “**Columbus's Arrival**”

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.

“Food often became stale, and fresh water had to be carefully rationed.”

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?

“They farmed crops, fished in coastal waters, traded with neighboring groups, and built thriving communities.”

A. farmed B. thriving C. communities

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?

“They farmed crops, fished in coastal waters, traded with neighboring groups, and built thriving communities.”

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 trip across the ocean was long.

Replace the word long 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 worried instead of thought?

"Some crew members worried they would never return home."

Why worried and not thought?

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

stale. Stale carries a negative feeling of food that is old, dry, and unpleasant to eat.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Thriving carries a strong positive feeling of communities that are growing, healthy, and successful.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The trip across the ocean was grueling.

DEFEND

Worried carries a feeling of fear and anxiety about never seeing home again. The plain word thought would not show the sailors' deep fear.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “As more explorers and settlers arrived, disagreements began to develop. Land, resources, and power became sources of conflict.” The word conflict works well. Conflict.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Storms and rough seas could make traveling even more difficult. Despite these challenges, the ships continued westward across the Atlantic Ocean.

The word 'rough' helps the reader understand that the seas were

- A** very cold during the entire journey
- B** wild and dangerous with strong waves
- C** shallow near the coastline
- D** calm enough for the ships to sail quickly

The answer is **B**.

- A** **very cold during the entire journey**
Rough describes the choppy, dangerous movement of the water, not its temperature.
- B** **wild and dangerous with strong waves**
Correct. Rough means the water was choppy and hard to sail through, making the voyage dangerous.
- C** **shallow near the coastline**
Rough describes wave action, not depth. The ships were crossing the open ocean.
- D** **calm enough for the ships to sail quickly**
Rough is the opposite of calm. It means the water was difficult to navigate.