

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 “Voices That Shaped Texas”

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.

“Her songs were not important because they were complicated. They were important because they were honest.”

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?

“She helped people feel seen and respected.”

A. feel B. respected C. seen

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?

“She helped people feel seen and respected.”

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 singer's music was good.

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 closed instead of not available?

“Some doors were closed to African American artists before they even had a chance to show their talent.”

Why closed and not not available?

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

honest. Honest carries a positive feeling of truth and sincerity, showing the songs told real experiences.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Respected carries a warm, positive feeling of being valued and treated with dignity.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The singer's music was heartfelt.

DEFEND

Closed carries a harsh feeling of being deliberately blocked and denied. The plain phrase not available is too neutral and does not show the unfairness of being shut out.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: "It also mattered because it helped open doors for other performers." The word mattered works well. Mattered carries a feeling of real importance and significance, showing.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Her voice was clear and strong, and people remembered it. When she performed, listeners could hear emotion in every song.

The word 'emotion' helps the reader understand that Mendoza's songs

- A** were sung very loudly so everyone could hear
- B** used difficult words that were hard to understand
- C** carried real feelings that touched listeners
- D** were performed only at special celebrations

The answer is C.

- A** **were sung very loudly so everyone could hear**
Emotion means feeling, not volume. A song can be emotional at any volume.
- B** **used difficult words that were hard to understand**
Emotion means feeling in the music, not complicated language.
- C** **carried real feelings that touched listeners**
Correct. Emotion means genuine feelings, and the excerpt says listeners could hear those feelings in every song.
- D** **were performed only at special celebrations**
The excerpt says her songs reached people in many settings, not just celebrations.