

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 “**The Roads Between Us**”

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.

“Salt traveled south and gold went north, As merchants carried treasures forth.”

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?

“The search for riches, power, and land Could bring great harm from human hands.”

A. riches B. harm C. power

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?

“The search for riches, power, and land Could bring great harm from human hands.”

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 travelers went through a hard place.

Replace the word hard 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 silenced instead of stopped?

“Connections sometimes brought new choice; At other times, they silenced voice.”

Why silenced and not stopped?

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

treasures. Treasures carries a positive feeling of something precious and highly valued, not just goods or items.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Harm carries a strong negative feeling of damage and pain caused by people's choices.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The travelers went through a treacherous place.

DEFEND

Silenced carries a harsh feeling of forcefully taking away someone's voice. The plain word stopped would not show the cruelty of deliberately preventing people from speaking.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: "A road is more than dirt or stone; Its greatest reach may stay unknown." The word greatest works well. Greatest carries a feeling of something deeply impressive and far.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

But every road can carry more Than boxes stacked from floor to floor. It carries language, thought, and art, And pieces of the human heart.

The word 'pieces' suggests that roads carry

- A** broken objects that need to be repaired
- B** instructions for building new communities
- C** packages that merchants deliver to other towns
- D** parts of people's feelings, experiences, and culture

The answer is **D**.

- A broken objects that need to be repaired**
Pieces of the human heart is about feelings and experiences, not broken objects.
- B instructions for building new communities**
The poem says roads carry thought, art, and feelings, not building instructions.
- C packages that merchants deliver to other towns**
The poem specifically says roads carry more than boxes. Pieces refers to emotions and culture.
- D parts of people's feelings, experiences, and culture**
Correct. Pieces of the human heart means parts of what people care about, feel, and believe.