

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 “What We Carry Forward”

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.

“Some laws excluded; some caused pain.”

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?

“Lydia Mendoza sang with pride,”

A. sang B. pride C. Mendoza

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?

“Lydia Mendoza sang with pride,”

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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"revise drafts to improve sentence structure and word choice by adding, deleting, combining, and rearranging ideas for coherence and clarity"

Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the neutral word with a word that carries a clear feeling.

Plain sentence: The old customs were still there.

Replace the word there 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 unfair instead of difficult?

“And Bledsoe stepped upon a stage While unfair barriers marked his age.”

Why unfair and not difficult?

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

excluded. Excluded carries a harsh negative feeling of being deliberately left out and denied belonging.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Pride carries a strong positive feeling. It shows Mendoza honored her language and culture when she sang.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The old customs were still thriving.

DEFEND

Unfair carries a strong feeling of injustice, showing the barriers were morally wrong. The plain word difficult would only describe the challenge, not the wrongness behind it.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Some laws excluded; some caused pain. Some voices fought to make things change.” The word fought works well. Fought carries a feeling of strength and determination.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

A song can cross a crowded room And make forgotten stories bloom.

The word 'bloom' suggests that the stories

- A** come alive again after being forgotten for a long time
- B** are about flowers and nature in the countryside
- C** were never important to anyone who heard them
- D** were written down in books and never changed

The answer is **A**.

- A** **come alive again after being forgotten for a long time**
Correct. Bloom means to open up and grow, like a flower, showing the stories become alive again through music.
- B** **are about flowers and nature in the countryside**
Bloom is used as a comparison. The stories are not literally about flowers.
- C** **were never important to anyone who heard them**
Bloom means the stories become alive and important again, not unimportant.
- D** **were written down in books and never changed**
The poem says the stories were forgotten and then brought to life by a song, not kept in books.