

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 Fifth-Grade Cookie Commission**”

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.

“That alone made everyone suspicious.”

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?

“Eli looked genuinely confused.”

A. confused B. Eli C. looked

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?

“Eli looked genuinely confused.”

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 meeting was nice.

Replace the word nice 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 exploded instead of reacted?

“The room exploded.”

Why exploded and not reacted?

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

suspicious. Suspicious carries a negative connotation of distrust, showing the students feel uneasy.

CHOOSE

A. confused. It carries a clear positive or negative feeling, not just a plain meaning.

SHOW

Confused carries a connotation of being lost and unable to understand, showing real bewilderment.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The meeting was productive.

DEFEND

Exploded carries a feeling of sudden, loud excitement, as if the whole room burst at once. The plain word reacted is neutral and shows no feeling.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Everyone groaned.” The word groaned works well. Groaned carries a strong negative connotation of frustration and displeasure.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Jordan stared at his oatmeal cookie. "I think the Commission needs an emergency session."

Why does Jordan most likely use the word 'emergency'?

- A** He thinks oatmeal cookies are dangerous to eat.
- B** He wants the teacher to cancel the commission.
- C** He is worried the school will run out of desserts.
- D** He is exaggerating to show strong dislike.

The answer is **D**.

A

He thinks oatmeal cookies are dangerous to eat.

Nothing says the cookie is unsafe. Jordan is exaggerating his reaction.

B

He wants the teacher to cancel the commission.

Jordan does not want to end the commission. He wants to change the treat.

C

He is worried the school will run out of desserts.

There is no shortage. Jordan simply dislikes the oatmeal cookie.

D

He is exaggerating to show strong dislike.

Correct. Emergency makes his small complaint sound much bigger than it really is.