

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

Specific Nouns

from “A Harvest to Remember”

A specific noun names exactly which person, place, thing, or idea, instead of a general word like thing or place.

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 specific noun.”

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Notice the specific noun.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the specific noun the author chose.

“He also understood the geography of the area and showed them how to use the land in ways that worked best.”

I CAN I can notice the specific noun 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 is the most specific noun?

“A man named Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to grow crops like corn, catch fish, and find food in the area.”

A. man B. named C. Squanto

I CAN I can choose the specific noun 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?

“A man named Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to grow crops like corn, catch fish, and find food in the area.”

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."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the general noun with a specific noun.

Plain sentence: They grew things in the ground.

Replace the word things 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 streams instead of waterways?

“Rivers and streams could provide water and fish.”

Why streams and not waterways?

I CAN I can explain why an author's word choice is better than a plain word.

Find a specific noun on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more specific noun. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more specific noun.

**Copy the exact words. Then explain what the word shows
and why the author chose it.**

I CAN I can find a specific noun and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

geography. Geography names the specific subject of land features instead of a vague word like stuff or things.

CHOOSE

C. Squanto. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

Squanto names the exact person who helped, instead of a vague word like helper or guide.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: They grew squash in the ground.

DEFEND

Streams names a specific type of flowing water the Pilgrims could use. The plain word waterways does not create the same clear picture of a small, moving body of water.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The Wampanoag people had lived in the region for a long time.” The word Wampanoag works well. Wampanoag names the exact Native American tribe instead of a general term.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

There may have been wild birds, beans, squash, berries, nuts, or other foods that grew in the area.

Why does the author most likely include the word 'squash'?

- A** To show that the Pilgrims knew how to cook modern meals
- B** To prove that squash was the most important crop
- C** To give an example of local foods at the celebration
- D** To explain why the Pilgrims preferred vegetables to meat

The answer is C.

A

To show that the Pilgrims knew how to cook modern meals

The excerpt describes simple local foods, not modern cooking.

B

To prove that squash was the most important crop

Squash is listed along with many other foods. It is not called the most important.

C

To give an example of local foods at the celebration

Correct. Squash is a concrete detail that helps the reader picture the 1621 meal.

D

To explain why the Pilgrims preferred vegetables to meat

Wild birds are also listed. The excerpt does not say the Pilgrims preferred vegetables.