

## 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 “A Harvest to Remember”

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.”**

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

## Notice the word with a strong feeling.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the word that carries a strong feeling.

**“This story also reminds students that gratitude is not only about being thankful when life is easy.”**

**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.”**

**EXACT TEKS WORDING**

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

**Choose the strongest word.**

Read the sentence. Which word carries the strongest feeling?

**“With this help, the Pilgrims were able to grow enough food for a productive harvest.”**

**A. productive   B. this   C. help**

**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.”

## EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

**Show what the word does.**

What does the underlined word help the reader understand?

“With this help, the Pilgrims were able to grow enough food for a productive harvest.”

**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

*"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 weather outside felt bad.**

**Replace the word bad 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."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

## Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose hunger instead of need?

**"Some people became weak from hunger, and others became ill."**

**Why hunger and not need?**

**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**

gratitude. Gratitude carries a warm, deeply positive connotation of heartfelt appreciation that goes beyond just saying thank you.

**CHOOSE**

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

**SHOW**

Productive carries a positive connotation of success and reward after hard work.

**OWN**

Answers vary. One strong revision: The weather outside felt freezing.

**DEFEND**

Hunger carries a painful feeling of going without food for a long time. The plain word need is neutral and does not show how the Pilgrims suffered.

**YOUR TURN**

Answers vary. One example: “The long winter made many Pilgrims feel worried about the future.” The word worried works well. Worried carries a connotation of fear and uncertainty about what might.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

**It represented survival after a hard winter. It represented a harvest after months of work. It represented help from others.**

**The word 'survival' helps the reader understand that the Pilgrims**

- A** easily adjusted to their new home
- B** barely made it through a very hard time
- C** enjoyed the winter weather in Plymouth
- D** had plenty of food throughout the year

## The answer is **B**.

- A** **easily adjusted to their new home**  
Survival suggests a struggle, not an easy adjustment.
- B** **barely made it through a very hard time**  
Correct. Survival means staying alive through hardship, showing how close to danger the Pilgrims were.
- C** **enjoyed the winter weather in Plymouth**  
The excerpt says the winter was hard, not enjoyable.
- D** **had plenty of food throughout the year**  
Survival after a hard winter suggests food was scarce, not plentiful.