

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

Vivid Adjectives

from “A Difficult Compromise”

A vivid adjective describes a noun with exact detail so the reader can picture it clearly.

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 vivid adjective.”

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Notice the vivid adjective.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the vivid describing word the author chose.

“The war lasted four years and caused enormous loss of life.”

I CAN I can notice the vivid adjective 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 author's vivid adjective?

“Many Southern landowners operated farms and plantations.”

A. Many B. Southern C. landowners

I CAN I can choose the vivid adjective 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?

“Many Southern landowners operated farms and plantations.”

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 weak describing word with a vivid adjective.

Plain sentence: The problem between the states was 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.”

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Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose deeper instead of bigger?

“That deeper problem was slavery.”

Why deeper and not bigger?

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

Find a vivid adjective on your own.

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

Go back to the reading.

Find one more vivid adjective.

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

I CAN I can find a vivid adjective and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

enormous. Enormous paints a picture of staggering, almost unimaginable loss.

CHOOSE

B. Southern. It describes a noun with exact detail the reader can picture.

SHOW

Southern paints a geographic picture, placing these farms in a specific warm, agricultural region.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The problem between the states was devastating.

DEFEND

Deeper shows the problem was rooted far below the surface and harder to fix. The plain word bigger only tells size, not how hard the problem was to solve.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The nation became increasingly divided.” The word divided works well. Divided paints a vivid picture of a nation torn into opposing sides, as if the country itself has.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

The delegates in Philadelphia were trying to hold the states together, but their solution came at a heavy cost.

The word 'heavy' helps the reader understand that the cost of the compromise was

- A** very serious and caused great harm
- B** measured in large amounts of money
- C** not important enough to worry about
- D** quickly forgotten after the convention ended

The answer is **A**.

- A very serious and caused great harm**
Correct. Heavy describes a cost that weighed deeply on the nation, meaning it caused great suffering.
- B measured in large amounts of money**
Heavy here means serious and harmful, not a dollar amount.
- C not important enough to worry about**
Heavy means the opposite. The cost was very significant.
- D quickly forgotten after the convention ended**
Heavy suggests something burdensome and lasting, not something quickly forgotten.