

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 “One Voice Can Start a Wave”

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

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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.

“A question grows and conquers fears.”

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?

“Some feared their rights were wearing down.”

A. Some B. feared C. wearing down

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?

“Some feared their rights were wearing down.”

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 neutral word with a word that carries a clear feeling.

Plain sentence: The idea went from town to town.

Replace the word went 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 lasting instead of long?

"One voice can start a lasting wave."

Why lasting and not long?

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

conquers. Conquers carries a powerful, heroic connotation, suggesting questions can defeat fear like a warrior wins a battle.

CHOOSE

C. wearing down. It carries a clear positive or negative feeling, not just a plain meaning.

SHOW

Wearing down carries a negative connotation of slow, steady loss, like something being ground away over time.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The idea spread from town to town.

DEFEND

Lasting suggests a wave of change that endures and matters. The plain word long only describes how many years, not the significance of the movement.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The Boston Massacre brought fear;” The word fear works well. Fear carries a strong negative connotation of dread and panic that shook the colonists deeply.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Their shared concerns became a fire.

The word 'fire' suggests that the colonists' shared concerns were

- A** weak and easy to ignore
- B** confusing and hard to explain
- C** calm and carefully planned
- D** intense, powerful, and spreading

The answer is **D**.

- A weak and easy to ignore**
Fire suggests intensity and heat, not weakness.
- B confusing and hard to explain**
Fire suggests strength and energy, not confusion.
- C calm and carefully planned**
Fire suggests something burning with passion, not calm planning.
- D intense, powerful, and spreading**
Correct. Fire suggests the concerns burned with energy and grew rapidly, like flames spreading.