

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 “Try, Learn, Change”

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.

“This isn’t weakness; this is growth.”

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?

"A challenge tells us something's new,"

A. tells B. something's C. challenge

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?

"A challenge tells us something's new,"

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 problem was big for the team.

Replace the word big 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 truth instead of answers?

“Good thinking values facts and truth.”

Why truth and not answers?

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

weakness. Weakness carries a negative connotation of being flawed and fragile, which the poem rejects by showing that changing your mind is actually strength.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Challenge carries a connotation of difficulty and testing, showing the situation demands effort.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The problem was complex for the team.

DEFEND

Truth carries a strong positive feeling of what is real and right. The plain word answers could mean any reply, even a wrong one.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Wisdom sometimes means we say,” The word Wisdom works well. Wisdom carries a deep, positive connotation of experience and good judgment beyond just knowing facts.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

A challenge tells us something's new, But not exactly what to do.

The word 'challenge' helps the reader understand that a problem

- A** always has an easy solution
- B** should be avoided whenever possible
- C** signals something unfamiliar appeared
- D** means the same thing as a mistake

The answer is C.

- A** **always has an easy solution**
A challenge is something difficult, not easy.
- B** **should be avoided whenever possible**
The poem says challenges teach us. They should not be avoided.
- C** **signals something unfamiliar appeared**
Correct. A challenge tells us something new has appeared that requires thinking and action.
- D** **means the same thing as a mistake**
A challenge is a new problem, not an error someone made.