



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 1

Shaping the Prompt



Grade 3 • Cluster 1

Tackling TEKS 7C — Reading & Writing



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 1

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Circle the noun with a red circle.
- Box the verb with a yellow box.
- Triangle the clue word in green.
- Decide if a question asks WHAT, WHY, or HOW.

I Can...

- Find the most important noun.
- Find the most important verb.
- Find the clue word that tells me what, why, or how.
- **Explain to a partner** what a prompt is asking me to do.

★ Becoming Question Detectives

Day 1 • Gather & Reveal

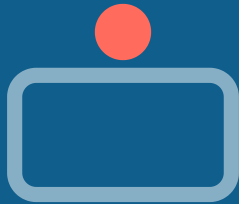
Passage 1: "The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth"

**Why did the Pilgrims choose
Plymouth as a place to settle?**

Every question hides a secret code — today we learn to crack it!

★ Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 • Gather & Reveal



**A little dot above a word
means: "I'm not sure about
this word yet."**

When you learn the word, you can erase your dot!

★ Three Kinds of Questions

Day 1 • Reveal

WHAT

Tell or name something.

"What natural resources did the Pilgrims find near Plymouth?"

WHY

Give a reason.

"Why did the Pilgrims settle in Plymouth?"

HOW

Explain a process.

"How did the Nile River help farmers grow crops?"

★ Shaping the Prompt

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)



Red circle → the **noun** (the topic)



Yellow box → the **verb** (the action)



Green triangle → the **clue word** (WHAT, WHY, HOW)

Watch Me!

"Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?" — I circle Pilgrims, box choose, and triangle Why. That means this is a WHY question!

★ Let's Try It Together!

Day 2 • Attempt

Passage 2: "Life Along the Nile River"

How did the Nile River help farmers grow crops?

With Your Partner...

Circle **Nile River**. Box **help**.
Triangle **How**.

Ask yourselves: which noun takes the action? Which verb is closest to it?

★ Talk It Over!

Day 3 • Discuss

How did the Nile River help farmers grow crops?

Student Directions

"Turn to your partner and mark the question using our shapes."

Noun in red? Nile River /
farmers

Verb in yellow? help

Clue in green? How

★ What Clues Can We Find?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

**What details from the passage
might help answer this question?**

Think about: the river flooded • the floods left rich soil •
farmers planted crops in the soil

≡ Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook, page 14

1

What natural resources did the Pilgrims find near Plymouth?

2

Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

3

How did the Nile River affect where towns and cities were built?

Draw a red circle around the noun, a yellow box around the verb, and a green triangle around the clue word.

🎯 Let's Talk About It!

Day 4 • Award & Target

**Which type of question felt easiest for you today?
Which type felt the most challenging?**

Curiosity Questions

Why do test writers ask WHAT, WHY, and HOW questions? How could naming the question type help you write stronger answers?

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

**How does the Nile River help
farmers grow their crops?**

On your own: circle the noun, box the verb, triangle the clue word — then tell whether it is a WHAT, WHY, or HOW question.

★ Question Type Detective

Small-Group Support

WHAT

Name it.

WHY

Give a reason.

HOW

Explain the way it happens.

Slow down and look carefully at the thinking each question is asking us to do.

② Question Surgeons: Expert Reflection

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Which type of question requires the most thinking?

Which would be hardest for a reader to answer?

What makes a strong SCR prompt?

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice finding the Three Shapes, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in or check the box that matches how you feel.

Be honest with yourself — this helps you see how much you are growing!

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

LOW

"They built houses."

What's working: Names an action from the story.

What's missing: No thesis (central idea) that answers WHY, no evidence, and no explanation.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

MEDIUM

"The Pilgrims built shelters quickly because winter was coming."

What's working: Has a thesis (central idea) that answers WHY, using the word *because*.

What's missing: No evidence from the passage and no explanation yet.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

HIGH

"The Pilgrims needed to build shelters quickly because winter was coming. The passage says winter was coming and they needed to begin building shelters. Without shelter, the Pilgrims could not survive the cold, so building quickly kept them safe."

What's working: Three sentences — a thesis (central idea), one piece of evidence, and an explanation — all answering WHY. This is our Module 1 target!