

A Little Insight Answer Key

Answer Key (Sample Paragraph):

The determiners **little**, **a little**, and **the little** describe small amounts but carry different meanings. **Little** suggests a lack or negative tone, as in "There was little water left after the drought." **A little** shows a small but positive quantity, such as "We still have a little time to finish the project." **The little** points to a specific, limited amount, for example, "The little money he earned helped pay for his books." Writers choose among them to control tone-negative, neutral, or specific-and to make expression more precise.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Encourages metacognitive reflection on **tone and specificity** when using determiners that indicate small quantities.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Offer sentence starters like "We use **little** when..." for students needing scaffolding.
 - For advanced learners, ask them to include emotional or figurative examples (e.g., "little courage," "the little kindness left in the world").
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Let students share one sentence aloud and discuss whether it sounds pessimistic, hopeful, or specific.
 - Display several strong examples on a classroom "Determiner Wall of Fame."
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Have students rewrite a famous quote or short passage three times, changing only the determiner to alter tone.
 - Ask them to peer-review one another's reflections, checking that examples clearly match each determiner's intended meaning.