

Name: _____

Ruining a Poem with Poor Word Choice

Below you will find William Carlos Williams's poem "This is Just to Say" and a parody of the poem with weakened, awkward word choice. Use the right hand column of the chart to briefly analyze why each word replacement was a poor choice.

Original Poem	Weakened Word Choice
This is Just to Say I have eaten the plums that were in the icebox and which you were probably saving for breakfast Forgive me they were delicious so sweet and so cold --William Carlos Williams	This is Just to Say I have digested the drupes that were in the refrigerator and which you were most likely reserving for the first meal of the day Exempt me they were toothsome so sugary and so frosty

Original Word Choice	Weakened Word Choice	Why is the word choice weaker?
eaten	digested	<i>digested</i> sounds gross, more of a medical term
plums	drupe	
icebox	refrigerator	
probably	most likely	
saving	reserving	
breakfast	the first meal of the day	
forgive	exempt	
delicious	toothsome	
sweet	sugary	
cold	frosty	

What is special about the way Williams chose his words in the original poem?