## Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions for Language Arts

**Wallingford Public Schools**  
Draft 8/12/02

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enduring Understanding</th>
<th>Essential Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appreciation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading expands</td>
<td>• Why do people read?</td>
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<tr>
<td>understanding of the</td>
<td>• What do people read?</td>
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<tr>
<td>world, its people and</td>
<td>• What are the benefits of reading?</td>
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<tr>
<td>oneself.</td>
<td>• How does reading affect your life?</td>
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<td><strong>Reading Strategies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Readers use strategies</td>
<td>• How do readers prepare for reading?</td>
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<tr>
<td>to construct meaning.</td>
<td>• What are readers thinking about as they read?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• What can a reader do when they don’t understand?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• What impact does fluency have on comprehension?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Why are strategies important?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Responses to Literature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Authors write with</td>
<td>• How does reading influence us?</td>
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<td>different purposes in</td>
<td>• Why do we need to evaluate what we read?</td>
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<td>mind.</td>
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<td>Readers develop a deeper</td>
<td>• How do readers reflect and respond?</td>
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<tr>
<td>understanding through</td>
<td>• What connections do readers make?</td>
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<td>reflection of text.</td>
<td>• How might being able to recognize literary features help in appreciating literature?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vocabulary</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>People communicate</td>
<td>• What is the purpose of communication?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>through words.</td>
<td>• Where do words or phrases come from?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• How does word choice affect meaning?</td>
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<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>People rely on a variety</td>
<td>• How is information organized?</td>
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<tr>
<td>of resources to obtain</td>
<td>• Why is information organized in different ways?</td>
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<tr>
<td>information.</td>
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<td>New information may</td>
<td>• Why do we ask questions?</td>
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<td>result in a new idea</td>
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<tr>
<td>or a change of stance.</td>
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## Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions for Language Arts

**Writing**

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</table>
| Effective communication relies on the usage of proper forms. | • How does the audience influence the format of your writing?  
• How does the purpose influence the format of your writing? |
| **Writing Process**    |                     |
| Writers have a purpose for writing. | • Why do we write?  
• How is your style of writing influenced by purpose?  
• What is the importance of sharing? |
| Writing is a multi-stage process. | • How do we approach writing?  
• How does each step in the process impact your writing? |
| Writing is a reflective process. | • How do we evaluate writing?  
• How can we use evaluation and reflection to improve our writing? |
| **Grammar & Mechanics**|                     |
| Written communication and proper grammar mechanics promote fluency of communication. | • What is the purpose of applying grammar and mechanics skills? |
| **Spelling**           |                     |
| Conventional spelling promotes common understanding. | • Why is it important to use correct spelling?  
• How can usage of spelling rules and patterns improve written communication?  
• What are the benefits of using resources to improve your spelling? |
| **Handwriting**        |                     |
| Legibility improves communication. | • What role does handwriting play in communication? |
Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions for Language Arts
Listening, Speaking, Viewing
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| Listening skills are critical for learning and communicating. | • How do you listen?  
 • What impact does listening have? |
| **Speaking**           |                     |
| People communicate through speaking. | • How do you speak effectively?  
 • In what ways are ideas communicated orally? |
| **Viewing**            |                     |
| Visual materials enhance understanding. | • How do the visual materials send messages?  
 • How do visuals impact our thoughts and actions?  
 • How does one analyze and evaluate visual materials? |