

Get deeper understanding with *Understanding by Design*.

Prentice Hall Literature was developed using Grant Wiggins's *Understanding by Design* model. What is it? It's a common sense approach for connecting curriculum, instruction, and assessment so that your students develop deep understanding every day.



“The big-idea questions signal that education is not just about learning ‘the answer’ but about learning how to learn.”

Grant Wiggins, *Contributing Author*

Start with the End

That's how the “backwards design” of *Understanding by Design* works. What you want the students to accomplish serves as the starting point. For *Prentice Hall Literature*, considering life's big questions is the starting point.

What's the Big Idea?

If deep understanding is the goal, how do you get students there? *Understanding by Design* suggests a number of ways:

- Engage students in inquiry
- Promote a transfer of learning
- Provide a conceptual framework
- Uncover “big ideas”
- Develop appropriate assessments



Want to Learn More?

Check out *Understanding by Design* for yourself at www.grantwiggins.org/ubd.html. It's also available from major book outlets.



Big Questions for Grades 6 through 10

The Big Questions in *Prentice Hall Literature* explore the same concept through the entire unit. The concept stays the same from grade to grade but gets more sophisticated as your students grow each year.

	Unit 1 Fiction and Nonfiction	Unit 2 Short Stories	Unit 3 Nonfiction	Unit 4 Poetry	Unit 5 Drama	Unit 6 Themes in Literature
Grade 6	How do we decide what is true?	Is conflict always bad?	What is important to know?	Do we need words to communicate well?	How do we decide who we are?	How much do our communities shape us?
Grade 7	What is the best way to find the truth?	Does every conflict have a winner?	What should we learn?	What is the best way to communicate?	Do others see us more clearly than we see ourselves?	Community or individual—which is more important?
Grade 8	Is truth the same for everyone?	Can all conflicts be resolved?	How much information is enough?	What is the secret to reaching someone with words?	Is it our differences or our similarities that matter most?	Are yesterday's heroes important today?
Grade 9	Can truth change?	Is conflict necessary?	Is knowledge the same as understanding?	How does communication change us?	Do our differences define us?	Do heroes have responsibilities?
Grade 10	What is the difference between reality and truth?	Can progress be made without conflict?	What kind of knowledge changes our lives?	Does all communication serve a positive purpose?	To what extent does experience determine what we perceive?	Can anyone be a hero?



Essential Questions for Grades 11 and 12

Older students get a chance to explore broader themes of literature with three Essential Questions per grade. The questions stay the same for each unit, so students develop deep understanding.

	Essential Questions of the Literary Period		
Grade 11	What makes American literature American?	What is the relationship between place and literature?	How does literature shape or reflect society?
Grade 12	What is the relationship of the writer to tradition?	What is the relationship between place and literature?	How does literature shape or reflect society?