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**4. Deeper Learning**

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# Discern the Deeper, Surprising, True Meanings

Dive into the stories-behind-the-stories, experience the times and conditions of the story with the immediacy of primary sources. Find, evaluate, synthesize and collaborate for richer understanding and appreciation.

*The essence of deeper learning is changing the manner in which we work with young people.*

Superintendent James Merrill,  
Virginia Beach Public Schools.

Common Core standards challenge teachers and learners to build research, critical thinking and collaboration skills. AwesomeStories has worked to transform its story website into a Story-Based Learning Platform to meet the specific goals of (among other things) the Common Core State Standards and the principles of "Deeper Learning".

## What is deeper learning?

The following powerful overview comes from the Hewlett Foundation's "Deeper Learning" website, July 2013, [Hewlett Foundation "Deeper Learning."](#)

"In classrooms where deeper learning is the focus, you find students who are motivated and challenged—who look forward to their next assignment. They apply what they have learned in one subject area to newly encountered situations in another. They can see how their classwork relates to real life. They are gaining an indispensable set of knowledge, skills, and beliefs, including:

- **"Mastery of Core Academic Content:** Students build their academic foundation in subjects like reading, writing, math, and science. They understand key principles and procedures, recall facts, use the correct language, and draw on their knowledge to complete new tasks.
- **"Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Students think critically, analytically, and creatively. They know

how to find, evaluate, and synthesize information to construct arguments. They can design their own solutions to complex problems.

- **"Collaboration:** Collaborative students work well in teams. They communicate and understand multiple points of view and they know how to cooperate to achieve a shared goal.
- **"Effective Communication:** Students communicate effectively in writing and in oral presentations. They structure information in meaningful ways, listen to and give feedback, and construct messages for particular audiences.
- **"Self-directed Learning:** Students develop an ability to direct their own learning. They set goals, monitor their own progress, and reflect on their own strengths and areas for improvement. They learn to see setbacks as opportunities for feedback and growth. Students who learn through self-direction are more adaptive than their peers.
- **"An 'Academic Mindset':** Students with an academic mindset have a strong belief in themselves. They trust their own abilities and believe their hard work will pay off, so they persist to overcome obstacles. They also learn from and support each other. They see the relevance of their schoolwork to the real world and their own future success.

"When students are developing knowledge, skills, and academic mindsets simultaneously, they learn more efficiently. They acquire and retain more academic knowledge when they are engaged, believe their studies are important, and are able to apply what they are learning in complex and meaningful ways."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Deeper-Learning-Why-Join->

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Deeper-Learning-Why-Join->

## Media Stream



### Deeper Learning

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Deeper-Learning-Illustration->