### ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP

**ELA: GRADE 3**

**ELA.EE.L.3.5.a**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
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| ELA.L.3.5.a Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps) | ELA.EE.L.3.5.a Determine the literal meaning of words and phrases in context | **Initial Precursor**  
  - Can pay attention to either the entire object, a characteristic of the object, or an action in which the object can perform after some verbal label has been attached to it |
|                      |                       | **Distal Precursor**  
  - Can recognize when he or she encounters familiar people, objects, places, and events |
|                      |                       | **Proximal Precursor**  
  - Can determine when two words have the same, similar, or different meanings or whether meanings of a single word are the same or different |
|                      |                       | **Target**  
  - Can determine the literal meaning of words and phrases using the context in which they are located |
|                      |                       | **Successor**  
  - Can ascertain which words or phrases fit the meaning of literal sentences in a text and can complete those sentences by choosing the best ones |

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<table>
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<th>How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?</th>
<th>How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> Learning the meaning of new words begins as students learn the names of objects and actions that are part of their everyday routines. Students working at the Initial Precursor linkage level can work on identifying the labels associated with objects and actions during shared reading. The DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level are about familiar routines and call out objects that teachers can help students learn to associate with labels and other descriptions.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> Learning the meaning of new words begins as students learn when they encounter familiar and ultimately unfamiliar words, people, objects, places and events. Teachers can help students recognize when they encounter familiar people, objects, places, and events during shared reading. The DLM Familiar Texts at this linkage level feature common routines that include familiar people, objects, places and/or events.</td>
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A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

*Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:*

- IP: Initial Precursor
- SP: Supporting
- DP: Distal Precursor
- S: Successor
- PP: Proximal Precursor
- UN: Untested
- T: Target
ELA.EE.L.3.5.a - Determine the literal meaning of words and phrases in context.