# Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map

**ELA: Grade 8**

**ELA.EE.RI.8.4**

<table>
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<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
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| ELA.RI.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts | ELA.EE.RI.8.4 Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text | Initial 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  

Distal Precursor:  
- Can determine the literal meaning of words and phrases using the context in which they are located  

Proximal Precursor:  
- Can use the surrounding context of a word in a text to determine the meaning of multiple meaning words  

Target:  
- Can identify the commonly understood cultural and/or emotional meaning of words and phrases in a text  

Successor:  
- Can determine the figurative meaning of words and phrases as the author intended in an informational text, such as common idioms, analogies, and figures of speech |

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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.RI.8.4 - Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text.