<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?</th>
<th>How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> As students work toward understanding the connotative meaning of words in text, they can begin to recognize words that have meanings that are the same or different. Teachers can work on this using the DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level. These texts intentionally use words that have similar and different meanings so teachers can work with students to begin to identify them.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> As students work toward understanding the way words make them feel or the connotative meaning of words in text, they have to identify the literal meaning of words. Students at the Distal Precursor linkage level should be working to use context to determine the literal meaning of words they encounter during shared reading or reading comprehension instruction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.