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

**ELA: Grade 3**

**ELA.EE.RL.3.3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
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| **ELA.RL.3.3** Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events | **ELA.EE.RL.3.3** Identify the feelings of characters in a story | **Initial Precursor**  
- The student is able to use or identify feeling words related to self, such as happy, sad, tired, worried, or angry  
**Distal Precursor**  
- Student can identify words in a familiar text that are associated with feelings  
**Proximal Precursor**  
- Student can identify the feelings of characters when explicitly stated in familiar stories  
**Target**  
- Can identify the feelings of specific characters in narratives  
**Successor**  
- Can identify how a character’s actions make them feel OR can identify how the character’s desires or feelings lead to an action |

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<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> Identifying the feelings of others begins with understanding feelings in oneself. In the context of reading literature, teachers can help students identify their own feelings during shared reading of texts that highlight the character's feelings. The DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level refer explicitly to character feelings, which gives teachers a chance to help students reflect on their own feelings.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> Identifying the feelings of characters in a book requires an understanding of words used to describe and label feelings. Teachers can help students begin to recognize when feeling words appear in a text using the DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level during shared reading. The familiar texts specifically call out character feelings with everyday words used to describe and label feelings.</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.RL.3.3 - Identify the feelings of characters in a story.