# Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map

**ELA: Grade 3**  
**ELA.EE.RL.3.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ELA.RL.3.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from non-literal language | ELA.EE.RL.3.4 Determine words and phrases that complete literal sentences in a text | 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 demonstrate understanding of the names of objects or people who are not immediately present  
Proximal Precursor  
- Can provide real-life examples of words connected to a use (describe people who are friendly)  
Target  
- 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  
Successor  
- Can identify simple semantic definitions for unambiguous words in a text |

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How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target? | How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?
---|---
**Initial Precursor:** At the Target level, students working on this Essential Element are associating words with other words to complete sentences. At the Initial Precursor level, students associate words with familiar objects. In the context of reading literature, the DLM Familiar Texts feature object names and words used to describe those objects. The books and objects are from everyday routines that teachers can act out and associate with real objects during shared reading. | **Distal Precursor:** At the Target level, students working on this Essential Element are associating words with other words to complete sentences. At the Distal Precursor linkage level, students associate words with familiar objects and people even when those objects and people are not immediately present. In the context of reading literature, the DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level feature common objects and people and give teachers an opportunity to help students associate names with them.

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.3.4 -** Determine words and phrases that complete literal sentences in a text.