## Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map

### ELA: Grade 4

**ELA.EE.RL.4.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELA.RL.4.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>ELA.EE.RL.4.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine a theme of</td>
<td>Identify the theme or central idea of a familiar story, drama or poem</td>
<td>• Can recognize when he or she encounters familiar people, objects, places, and events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a story, drama, or</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poem from details in</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Can identify the major events of a familiar story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the text; summarize</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Proximal Precursor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the text</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Can identify and recall how characters’ actions affect the consequences that occur in the story afterwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Target</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Can identify the theme of a familiar story, which includes a short, concise sentence about the overall meaning of the narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Successor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Can identify the theme of a story, which includes a short, concise sentence about the overall meaning of the narrative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** Identifying the theme of a text requires the readers to recognize and recall details from the text. As students work toward this, they must learn to recognize when they encounter familiar people, objects, places, and events. The DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level feature familiar routines that involve familiar people, objects, places, and events. Teachers can use these texts during shared reading to help students learn to indicate when they encounter familiar people, objects, places, and events.

### How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?

**Distal Precursor:** Identifying the theme of a text requires the readers to remember and recall details from the text, including details regarding the things the characters do. At the Distal Precursor linkage level, students are not expected to identify the theme, but they are expected to identify the major events so that they may one day use that understanding to move toward identifying the theme. Teachers can help students learn to identify the major events through shared reading of DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level. These texts feature familiar routines and explicit, observable events that teachers can help students identify.

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.4.2 - Identify the theme or central idea of a familiar story, drama or poem.
ELA-362
Can identify the causes of character's actions in a story

ELA-1057
Can identify the overall goal or main idea of a single episode

ELA-752
Can identify the overall goal or main idea of a character in a story

ELA-1344
Can identify the specific theme of a familiar story

ELA-1345
Can identify the specific theme of a story

ELA-1175
Can identify details that are related to the theme of a narrative