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

**ELA: Grade 4**

**ELA.EE.RL.4.5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ELA.RL.4.5 Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text | ELA.EE.RL.4.5 Identify elements that are characteristic of stories | **Initial Precursor**
  - Can recognize when he or she encounters familiar people, objects, places, and events |
|                       |                       | **Distal Precursor**
  - When shown a familiar book ("familiar" means that the student has had several shared reading experiences with the same text), can name the objects shown in the pictures/tactile graphics or the objects representing the book pictures |
|                       |                       | **Proximal Precursor**
  - Can determine the events that occur at the beginning, middle, and end of a familiar, linear story |
|                       |                       | **Target**
  - The student can identify characteristic elements of stories in a text, including main character, setting, initiating and resolution events |
|                       |                       | **Successor**
  - The student will identify an element of the story that undergoes change(s) from beginning to end (e.g., character or setting) |
### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** Identifying the elements that are characteristic of stories requires students to recognize when those elements appear repeatedly across stories. Students at the Initial Precursor linkage level can work toward this by learning to recognize familiar people, objects, places, and events when they appear in a story. Teachers can use DLM Familiar Texts during shared reading to help students learn to recognize familiar people, objects, places, and events when they appear.

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

**Distal Precursor:** Identifying the elements that are characteristic of stories requires students to recognize when those elements appear repeatedly across stories. Students at the Distal Precursor linkage level work toward this by naming the objects they see in pictures in texts and/or identifying objects that represent the objects in the pictures or tactile graphics that appear in texts. The DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level include common objects in pictures/tactile graphics so teachers can use them during shared reading to teach this.

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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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Initial Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Distal Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Proximal Precursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>Untested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Successor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Supporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ELA.EE.RL.4.5 - Identify elements that are characteristic of stories.
ELA-1191
Identify the beginning, middle, and end of a familiar, linear story

ELA-1355
Identify the beginning and end of a story.

ELA-1353
Can identify elements that are characteristic of stories.

ELA-1354
Can identify elements that change during the course of the story.