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

**ELA: Grade 6**

**ELA.EE.RL.6.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ELA.RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone | ELA.EE.RL.6.4 Determine how word choice changes the meaning in a text | **Initial Precursor**  
- Can understand adjectives in others’ speech  
**Distal Precursor**  
- Can demonstrate an understanding of words with opposite meanings (e.g., cold, hot, up, down)  
**Proximal Precursor**  
- Can understanding that words might have a slightly different meaning or use depending on the specific context in which they are used  
**Target**  
- Can ascertain how the meaning of a narrative is influenced by the author’s choice of words  
**Successor**  
- Can infer word meaning using semantic clues in the sentence or paragraph, including restatement, illustrations or examples, similes, metaphors, personification, summary, and cause/effect |

© 2020 The Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements, linkage levels, and nodes are copyrighted by the University of Kansas Center for Research. Linkage levels and nodes are available for use by educators in DLM states but may not be used by commercial entities without written permission. Linkage level information and nodes may not be altered by anyone without express written permission from the University of Kansas Center for Research.
### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** Determining how word choice changes the meaning of text requires students to learn many different words and the way they are used in different contexts. Students working at the Initial Precursor linkage level can work toward this by learning about words that describe things. Teachers can help students work on this through repeated shared reading of DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level. These texts include words that describe the settings, people, and events. Teachers can encourage students to identify the settings, people, and events that are associated with the describing words as they are encountered during each reading.

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

**Distal Precursor:** Determining how word choice changes the meaning of text requires students to learn many different words and the way they are used in different contexts. One example is learning to recognize words that have opposite meanings. Teachers can help students learn to recognize these words through repeated shared readings of DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level. These texts intentionally include pairs of words that are opposites that students can learn to identify over time.

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.6.4 - Determine how word choice changes the meaning in a text.