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

**ELA: Grade 7**

**ELA.EE.RL.7.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ELA.RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama | ELA.EE.RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of simple idioms and figures of speech as they are used in a text | **Initial Precursor**
- Can demonstrate understanding of the names of objects or people who are not immediately present

**Distal Precursor**
- Can determine the meaning of a word when the definition is given using appositive, relative clauses, within a conjunction, or a direct explanation within a text. Examples and restatements may also be used in the sentence

**Proximal Precursor**
- Can use the surrounding context of a word in a text to determine the meaning of multiple meaning words

**Target**
- Can determine the meaning of frequently occurring or transparent simple idioms and figures of speech when reading a narrative

**Successor**
- Can identify the commonly understood cultural and/or emotional meaning of words and phrases in a text

© 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:** Learning the meaning of figures of speech and idioms requires students to go beyond concrete word understandings. Students working at the Initial Precursor linkage level can work toward this more abstract understanding of words by beginning to demonstrate understanding of the names of objects and people when they are not immediately present. Teachers can work on this during repeated shared reading of DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level. These texts provide teachers with an opportunity to use objects, images, and/or tactile graphics to help students learn the names of objects and people when they are present and not present.

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

**Distal Precursor:** Learning the meaning of figures of speech and idioms requires students to begin to understand how context influences the meaning of words and phrases. Students at the Distal Precursor linkage level can work toward this understanding by learning to use context to determine the meaning of unknown words. Teachers can help students learn how to use context by selecting books that offer definitions of words right in the text using appositives (a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right before it), direct explanations, and other approaches to defining or explaining new words right in the text.

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.7.4 - Determine the meaning of simple idioms and figures of speech as they are used in a text.

- F-147: Can demonstrate understanding of words for absent objects and persons
- F-149: Can demonstrate receptive understanding of early two-word relations
- F-8: Can demonstrate receptive word order
- F-23: Can make judgments about the meaning of word(s)
- ELA-1211: Can identify an unknown or missing word in familiar text
- ELA-172: Can use discourse to enhance the representation of word meaning
- ELA-490: Can rely on syntactic clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word when the definition is directly stated in the sentence
- ELA-1467: Can recognize the literal meaning of a word or phrase in a sentence