## ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP

### ELA: GRADE 8

### ELA.EE.RL.8.2

<table>
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<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
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| ELA.RL.8.2 | Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text | **Initial Precursor**
- Can identify the next step or event in a sequence from a familiar routine |
| | Recount an event related to the theme or central idea, including details about character and setting | **Distal Precursor**
- Can identify early elements of story grammar; can point to pictures or objects or use speech to identify the characters or objects in a simple story |
| | | **Proximal Precursor**
- Can identify the theme of a story, which includes a short, concise sentence about the overall meaning of the narrative |
| | | **Target**
- Can relate an event with details about specific characters and settings that help the reader to infer the theme or central idea of a narrative |
| | | **Successor**
- Can relate two or more events with details about specific characters and settings that help the reader to infer the theme or central idea of a narrative |

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?</th>
<th>How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> Relating story events with details about characters and the settings to infer the theme or central idea of a narrative requires the integration of understanding of many story elements. This requires students to identify details. Students at the Initial Precursor can work toward these skills by engaged in repeated shared reading of books that focus on familiar routines. Teachers can use the DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level to help students attend to the steps or events in familiar routines and learn to identify what step comes next at different points in the routine.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> Relating story events with details about characters and the settings to infer the theme or central idea of a narrative requires the integration of understanding of many story elements. Students at the Distal Precursor linkage level are working to identify the story elements that they will eventually learn to use to infer the theme or central idea. Teachers can work on this during shared or guided reading (anchor-read-apply) as they set purposes related to identifying and remembering story elements like settings, events, and characters.</td>
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</tbody>
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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:*
  - IP Initial Precursor
  - SP Supporting
  - DP Distal Precursor
  - S Successor
  - PP Proximal Precursor
  - UN Untested
  - T Target
Recount an event related to the theme or central idea, including details about character and setting.
ELA-753
Can identify the general theme of a narrative when asked

ELA-1345
Can identify the specific theme of a story

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

ELA-1481
Can identify events that are related to the theme of a narrative

ELA-1395
Can identify the relevant events contributing to the theme or central idea of a narrative

ELA-1396
Can recount an event contributing to the theme or central idea of a narrative using specific details

ELA-1397
Can recount two or more events contributing to the theme or central idea of a narrative using specific details