## ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
### ELA: GRADE 8
### ELA.EE.RL.8.9

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
<th>DLM Essential Element</th>
<th>Linkage Levels</th>
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| ELA.RL.8.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new | ELA.EE.RL.8.9 Compare and contrast themes, patterns of events, or characters across two or more stories or dramas | **Initial Precursor**  
• Can understand adjectives in others’ speech  
**Distal Precursor**  
• Can identify the behavior and actions of specific characters in a familiar story  
**Proximal Precursor**  
• Can determine when a character changes in how he/she/it feels emotionally over the course of and in response to the events in a story  
**Target**  
• Can determine how different narratives are the same and different in terms of their theme, plot, and story elements, such as characters, settings, and events  
**Successor**  
• Can compare and contrast how similar themes and topics are addressed in texts using different forms or from different genres, such as between stories and poems and between historical novels and fantasy stories |

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<table>
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<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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<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> Comparing and contrasting themes, plots, and other story elements requires students to understand words that can describe those things. Teachers can help students work toward this by helping them understand describing words when they are used in everyday interactions and by reading DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this linkage level. Those texts are written with specific attention to the use of adjectives to describe characters and others story elements. During repeated shared reading of these texts, teachers can encourage students to attend to the adjectives that are used and identify the story elements that are associated with each.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> Comparing and contrasting themes, plots, and other story elements requires students to identify those elements and their key features. Teachers can help students at the Distal Precursor linkage level work toward this by focusing on identifying characters and their behaviors and actions. The DLM Familiar Texts aligned with this Essential Element and linkage level specifically call out characters and the actions they perform. Teachers can help students at the Distal Precursor learn to identify behaviors and actions of characters by engaging in repeated shared reading of the DLM Familiar Texts. During the initial readings of the text, teachers can describe the characters and what they do, and over time, they can ask students to begin identifying the names of characters who perform each action. Teachers might also ask students to match character names with their actions or behaviors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- **DP** Distal Precursor
- **PP** Proximal Precursor
- **T** Target
- **SP** Supporting
- **S** Successor
- **UN** Untested
ELA.EE.RL.8.9 - Compare and contrast themes, patterns of events, or characters across two or more stories or dramas.
ELA-2029
Can compare the actions of characters in different narratives

ELA-2030
Can compare and contrast the actions of characters in different narratives

ELA-2034
Can compare and contrast a sequence of a few events in different narratives

ELA-2040
Can compare and contrast the plot in different narratives

ELA-1171
Can compare and contrast two narratives with a similar theme or topic

ELA-1696
Can compare and contrast the theme, plot, and story elements of different narratives

ELA-949
Can compare and contrast texts on a similar topic from different genres or with different forms