



This document includes information about the familiar texts used in single-Essential Elements testlets in grade 4 Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) alternate assessments. In the DLM assessment, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are given the opportunity to become familiar with the books they will encounter in the assessment. These familiar texts are used in all Initial Precursor testlets and in some other linkage levels for some Essential Elements. Unfamiliar texts are used in some linkage levels for some Essential Elements where access to the text prior to administration is not necessary for the student to demonstrate their understanding. Descriptions of the familiar texts and their features are provided for each Essential Element and linkage level. Example Familiar Text Lessons are linked in the list below to assist educators in using the Familiar Texts during instruction with students working at the initial precursor linkage level. Educators are encouraged to use this information as a resource for planning instruction.

Familiar text information is grouped by Essential Element. Essential Elements for Reading Literature (RL) use stories. Essential Elements for Reading Informational Text (RI) use informational texts. Essential Elements for Language (L) use both stories and informational texts. Links to each familiar text are included in this document.

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ELA.EE.RL.4.2

Identify the theme or central idea of a familiar story, drama or poem.

Initial Precursor | Can identify familiar people, objects, places, and events

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events are associated with these familiar settings. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Omakayas and Andeg</u>	Omakayas was a young girl who was adopted by a Native American family. She had a pet bird, Andeg, who would watch over her while she went about her day.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Peter Wins a Prize</u>	Peter was a boy in the fourth grade. He went to his friend's birthday party and played games.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fudge is on TV</u>	Fudge was a three-year-old boy. He and his older brother Peter went to work with Dad. Dad's work was filming a TV commercial and Fudge starred in it. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Fudge is on TV</u>

Distal Precursor | Can identify major observable events in a familiar story

General Text Description

Texts include story elements that undergo a change of state. Any change of state regarding characters or settings is considered a major observable event.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Andeg</u>	Omakayas was a young girl who was adopted by a Native American family. She had a pet bird, Andeg, who would watch over her while she went about her day.

Proximal Precursor | Can identify the consequences of a character's actions in a familiar story

General Text Description

Texts include plots driven by character action. Actions are clearly identified and connected to a particular character(s). Consequences, or results of those actions, are also included in the text. Characters, actions, and consequences are clearly connected in the text.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Sheila Babysits Fudge</i></u>	Fudge was a little boy. One day, Dad asked the neighbor, Sheila, to babysit Fudge. Sheila and Fudge had a lot of fun while Dad was at work.

Target | Can identify the specific theme of a familiar story

General Text Description

Texts assigned to this node have particular themes. The theme is the underlying meaning of the text. For DLM texts, this often comes in the form of a lesson or other understanding. The theme is not the topic. For example, a topic would be “friends,” and a theme would be, “sharing with friends.” Characters will be clearly connected to the themes of the texts in which they appear, and will either contribute to another character learning a lesson or will learn a lesson themselves.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Omakayas</u>	Omakayas was a little girl. She helped her mom and dad with many things.

ELA.EE.RL.4.5

Identify elements that are characteristic of stories.

Initial Precursor | Can identify familiar people, objects, places, and events

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events are associated with these familiar settings. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Omakayas and Andeg</u>	Omakayas was a young girl who was adopted by a Native American family. She had a pet bird, Andeg, who would watch over her while she went about her day.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Taking Care of Dribble</u>	Peter was a boy in the fourth grade. He had a pet turtle named Dribble that he cared for, played with, and kept clean. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Take Care of Dribble</u>

Distal Precursor | Can name objects in pictures/tactile graphics or name objects used to represent book pictures during a shared reading activity

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events will be depicted in photos or tactile graphics and clearly associated with the content of the text. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u><i>Omakayas and Andeg</i></u>	Omakayas was a young girl who was adopted by a Native American family. She had a pet bird, Andeg, who would watch over her while she went about her day.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>The School Project</i></u>	Peter was a boy in the fourth grade. He and his classmates were assigned a group project at school. They worked together to complete the assignment.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Taking Care of Dribble</i></u>	Peter was a boy in the fourth grade. He had a pet turtle that he cared for, played with, and kept clean.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Fudge Goes to the Dentist</i></u>	Fudge was a little boy. Mom helped Fudge get ready for the dentist and then brought him to get his teeth cleaned.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>A Boy Named Fudge</i></u>	Fudge and Peter went to the library with their Dad. The library did not have a story about a boy named Fudge. Peter wrote Fudge a new story to read.

Proximal Precursor | Identify the beginning, middle, and end of a familiar, linear story

General Text Description

Texts assigned to this node have a linear structure: the plot consists of a clear beginning, middle, and end. Texts assigned to this node do not include flashbacks, differing points of view, or any other non-linear component. Texts include events that can be directly associated with the beginning, middle, and end of the plot.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>A Day at the Park</i></u>	Peter was in the fourth grade. Fudge was Peter's little brother. Mom took Peter and Fudge to the park for a fun day.

ELA.EE.RL.4.6

Identify the narrator of a story.

Initial Precursor | Can demonstrate understanding of object names

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. People and objects are associated with familiar routines that are performed in mostly familiar settings. Generally, home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u><i>Bud and the Boys</i></u>	Bud is a young boy who lived in a big house with many other boys. Bud and the boys liked to share with each other.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Taking Care of Dribble</i></u>	Peter was a boy in the fourth grade. He had a pet turtle named Dribble that he cared for, played with, and kept clean. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Taking Care of Dribble</u>
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Peter and Fudge</i></u>	Peter was in the fourth grade. Fudge was Peter’s little brother. Fudge liked to do everything that Peter did.

Distal Precursor | Can identify the actions of the characters in a familiar story

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. The plots of these texts are driven by character action. Character actions are clearly identified and directly connected to a character or characters.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Omakayas the Helper</u>	Omakayas was a young Native American girl. She helped her mom sew and made toys for her baby brother.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fudge is Funny</u>	Fudge is a little boy who likes to make people laugh. Fudge did silly things that made his parents laugh.

ELA.EE.RI.4.1

Identify explicit details in an informational text.

Initial Precursor | Can demonstrate understanding of object names

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People and objects are associated with familiar routines that are performed in familiar contexts.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Growing and Gathering</u>	People had to grow their own food before there were grocery stores. This text describes how people would grow and gather food.
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Helping Others</u>	It is good to help other people. This text discusses jobs and people that are focused on helping.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>Trains</u>	This text describes how trains work. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Trains</u>
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Paper Airplanes</u>	People can make paper airplanes that fly. This text gives a list of things a person would need to make a paper airplane.

[Distal Precursor](#) | Can name objects in pictures/tactile graphics or name objects used to represent book pictures during a shared reading activity

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events will be depicted in pictures and clearly associated with the content of the text. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>The Woods</u>	Trees can be used to make many things. This text discusses the process of cutting lumber and making wooden items and buildings.
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Helping Others</u>	It is good to help other people. This text discusses jobs and people that are focused on helping.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>All Aboard</u>	Trains are a mode of transportation. This text describes trains and their different uses.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Turtles</u>	Turtles can live in the wild or in people's houses as pets. This text teaches about turtles.

ELA.EE.RI.4.4

Determine meaning of words in text.

Initial Precursor | Can demonstrate understanding of object names

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People and objects are associated with familiar routines that are performed in familiar contexts.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Trade Goods</u>	Before people used money and built stores, they would trade with one another. This text describes the practice of trading and what kinds of items were traded.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>What Trains Carry</u>	Trains carry people and things. This text describes what trains do and the things people bring with them on trains.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Shopping</u>	People go shopping for things they want to buy. This text describes the types of things people go shopping for. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Shopping</u>

Distal Precursor | Can make judgments about the meaning of word(s)

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People and objects are associated with familiar routines that are performed in familiar contexts. Texts will include descriptive words that have clear meanings.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Growing and Gathering</u>	People had to grow their own food before there were grocery stores. This text describes how people would grow and gather food.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>All Aboard</u>	Trains are a mode of transportation. This text describes trains and their different uses.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fun at the Park</u>	The park is a great place to have fun. This text describes parks and what people can do at the park.

ELA.EE.RI.4.5

Identify elements that are characteristic of informational texts.

Initial Precursor | Can determine similar or different based on physical characteristics

General Text Description

Object characteristics are descriptive words related to objects, and this includes names as well as descriptive words associated with a particular object. Texts include objects that are associated with familiar contexts. Words to describe how objects are similar or different from one another are used.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>The Woods</u>	Trees can be used to make many things. This text discusses the process of cutting lumber and making wooden items and buildings.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>Trains</u>	This text describes how trains work. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Trains</u>
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Posters</u>	Students make posters for school. This text describes ways people can make posters.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fun at the Park</u>	The park is a great place to have fun. This text describes parks and what people can do at the park.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Taking Care of Your Teeth</u>	This text provides steps for brushing and flossing your teeth as well as a description of a visit to the dentist.

Distal Precursor | Can name objects in pictures/tactile graphics or name objects used to represent book pictures during a shared reading activity

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events will be depicted in pictures and clearly associated with the content of the text. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>The Woods</u>	Trees can be used to make many things. This text discusses the process of cutting lumber and making wooden items and buildings.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>Trains</u>	This text describes how trains work.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Gifts</u>	People love to give and receive gifts. This text describes the types of things people give as gifts.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Shopping</u>	People go shopping for things they want to buy. This text describes the types of things people go shopping for.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>House Guests</u>	Sometimes people stay at other people’s houses during visits. This text provides directions for getting ready for house guests.

ELA.EE.RI.4.9

Compare details presented in two texts on the same topic.

Initial Precursor | Can demonstrate understanding of object names

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People and objects are associated with familiar routines that are performed in familiar contexts.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u><i>Riding a Train</i></u>	Trains can carry things and people. This text describes what people bring on a train.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Taking Care of Your Teeth</i></u>	This text provides steps for brushing and flossing your teeth as well as a description of a visit to the dentist.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u><i>Fashion Designers</i></u>	Fashion designers make clothes. This text describes what fashion designers do. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Fashion Designers</u>

Distal Precursor | Can draw conclusions based on category knowledge (early inductive reasoning)

General Text Description

Texts include familiar contexts. Routines performed in these contexts and objects associated with routines are described. These objects belong to a broader category, like arts and crafts or pet supplies.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Growing and Gathering</u>	People had to grow their own food before there were grocery stores. This text describes how people would grow and gather food.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Shopping</u>	People go shopping for things they want to buy. This text describes the types of things people go shopping for.

ELA.EE.L.4.5.c

Demonstrate understanding of opposites.

Initial Precursor | Can identify familiar people, objects, places, and events

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events are associated with these familiar contexts. Home includes family members and home-based routines, like getting ready in the morning or helping with dinner. School includes teachers, friends, and school-based routines, like packing a bag. The neighborhood includes friends, neighbors, and play routines, like taking a walk or going to the park.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fudge is on TV</u>	Fudge was a three-year-old boy. He and his older brother, Peter, went to work with Dad. Dad's work was filming a TV commercial and Fudge starred in it.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fudge Goes to the Dentist</u>	Fudge was a little boy. Mom helped Fudge get ready for the dentist and then brought him to get his teeth cleaned. Example DLM Familiar Text Lesson: <u>Fudge Goes to the Dentist</u>
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>A Boy Named Fudge</u>	Fudge and Peter went to the library with their dad. The library did not have a story about a boy named Fudge. Peter wrote Fudge a new story to read.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	<u>Bud and the Boys</u>	Bud is a young boy who lived in a big house with many other boys. Bud and the boys liked to share with each other.

Distal Precursor | Can identify words that describe familiar persons, places, things, and events

General Text Description

Texts include plots in mostly familiar settings such as home, school, or neighborhood. People, objects, and events are associated with these familiar settings. Words to describe settings, people, objects, and events are included in the texts.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Learning from Family</u>	Omakayas was a little girl. She was adopted by a family when she was just a baby. Omakayas learned to do many things from watching her family work hard.

Proximal Precursor | Can provide real-world connections between words and their use

General Text Description

Texts include mostly familiar contexts such as home, school, or neighborhood. Objects are named and associated with familiar routines and contexts so that students can make immediate connections among words, their meanings, and their uses.

DLM-Specific Text Descriptions

Collection Source Books	Corresponding DLM Book Title	DLM Book Summary
<i>The Birchbark House</i>	<u>Helping</u>	People can be helpful in many different ways. This text provides examples of how people can help one another.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Birthday Parties</u>	Some people throw parties to celebrate birthdays. This text describes birthday parties and the things people do at birthday parties.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Fudge Goes to the Dentist</u>	Fudge was a little boy. Mom helped Fudge get ready for the dentist and then brought him to get his teeth cleaned.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>A Boy Named Fudge</u>	Fudge and Peter went to the library with their Dad. The library did not have a story about a boy named Fudge. Peter wrote Fudge a new story to read.
<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	<u>Airports</u>	The airport is the place where people get on airplanes to travel. This text describes airports and the things people do before they get on an airplane.