ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.5

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.5 Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept	**ELA.EE.RI.8.5** Locate the topic sentence and supporting details in a paragraph	**Initial Precursor:** • When supplied with a member of a category, can determine if the member belongs in the category **Distal Precursor:** • Able to identify explicit details in an informational text **Proximal Precursor:** • Can determine which key details in an informational text support the main idea of the whole text or a section of it **Target:** • Student can identify the topic sentence and identify the details in the paragraph that support the topic sentence. There is a slight shift here from previous nodes as the student will need to use some text searching skill to locate the topic sentence and supporting details (they will need to use their knowledge of structural elements of informational texts to accomplish this) **Successor:** • Can derive from an oral, digital, or quantitative presentation of information the details supporting the main idea

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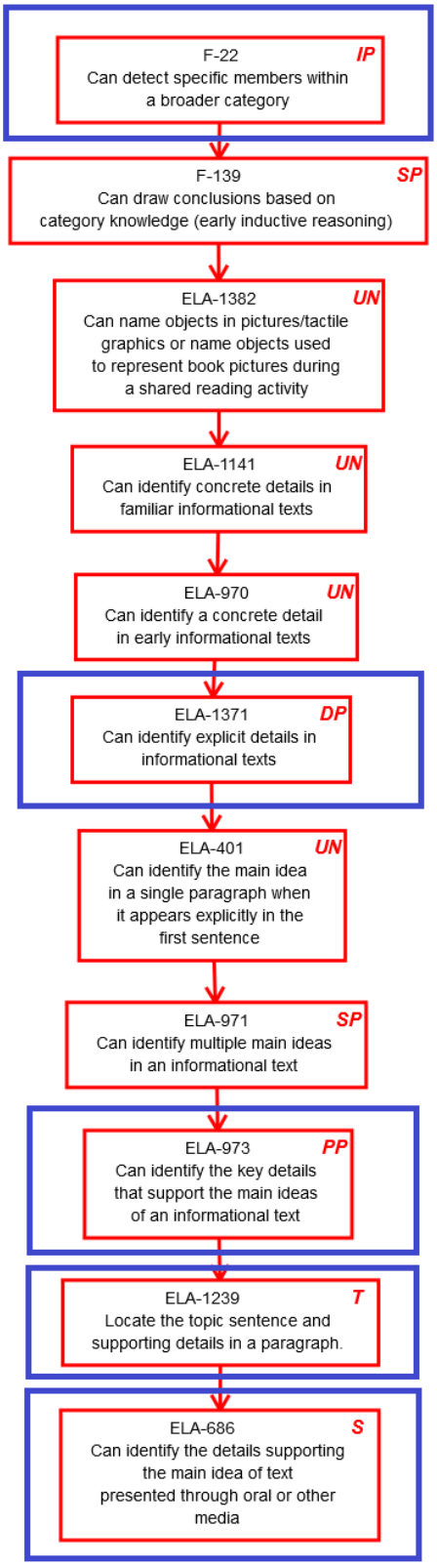
IP	Initial Precursor	SP	Supporting
DP	Distal Precursor	S	Successor
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.5 - Locate the topic sentence and supporting details in a paragraph.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.1

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text	**ELA.EE.RL.8.1** Cite text to support inferences from stories and poems	**Initial Precursor:** • As a result of experience with a routine, the student is able to identify the objects that are used in the routine **Distal Precursor:** • Can identify the concrete details, such as characters, objects, setting, and major events that are specifically stated in a narrative text **Proximal Precursor:** • Can identify details about characters, objects, setting, and major events that come from information not specifically stated in a narrative text **Target:** • Can identify and cite the explicit information stated in the text supporting the inferences made while reading a narrative text **Successor:** • Can determine which citations refer to explicit information and which citations refer to inferred information in a narrative text

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PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
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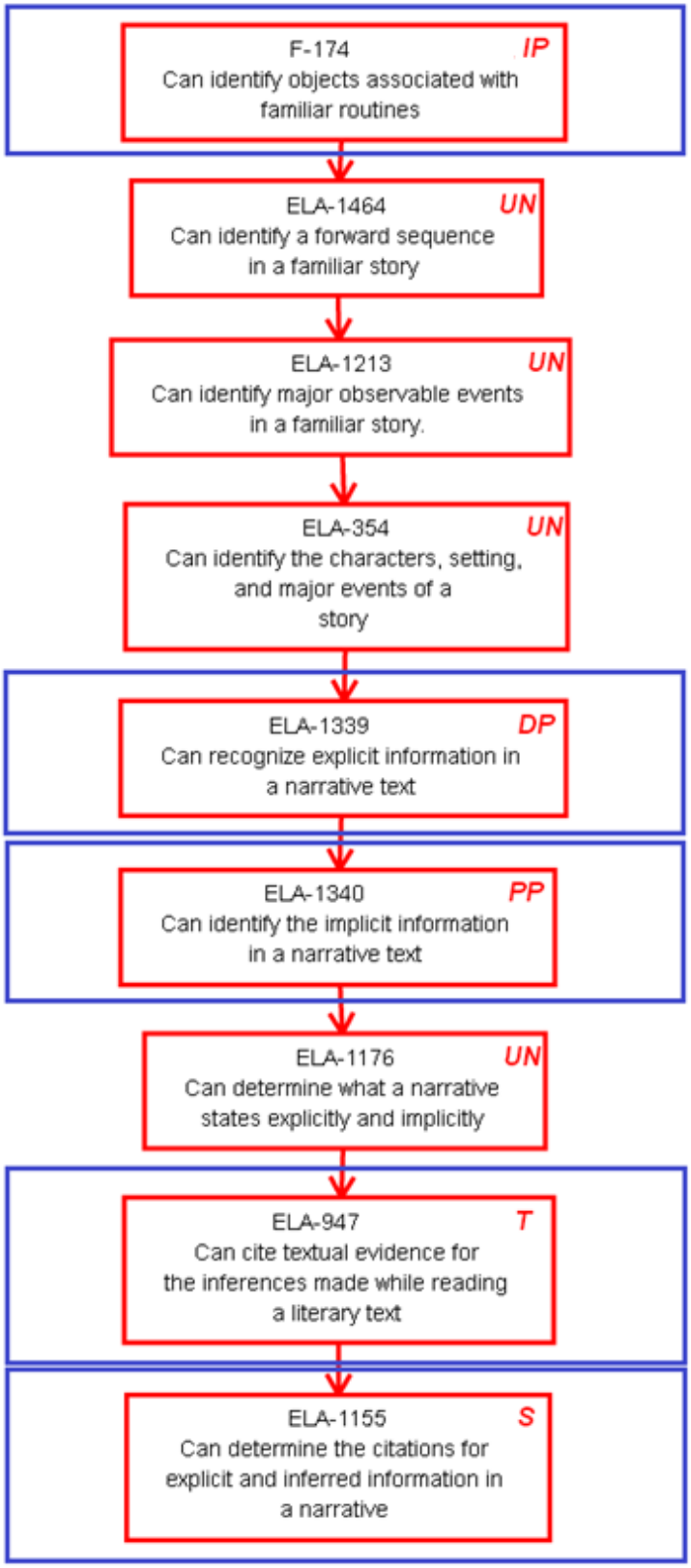
ELA.EE.RL.8.1 - Cite text to support inferences from stories and poems.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.2

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
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	**ELA.EE.RL.8.2** Recount an event related to the theme or central idea, including details about character and setting	**Initial Precursor:** • Can identify the next step or event in a sequence from a familiar routine **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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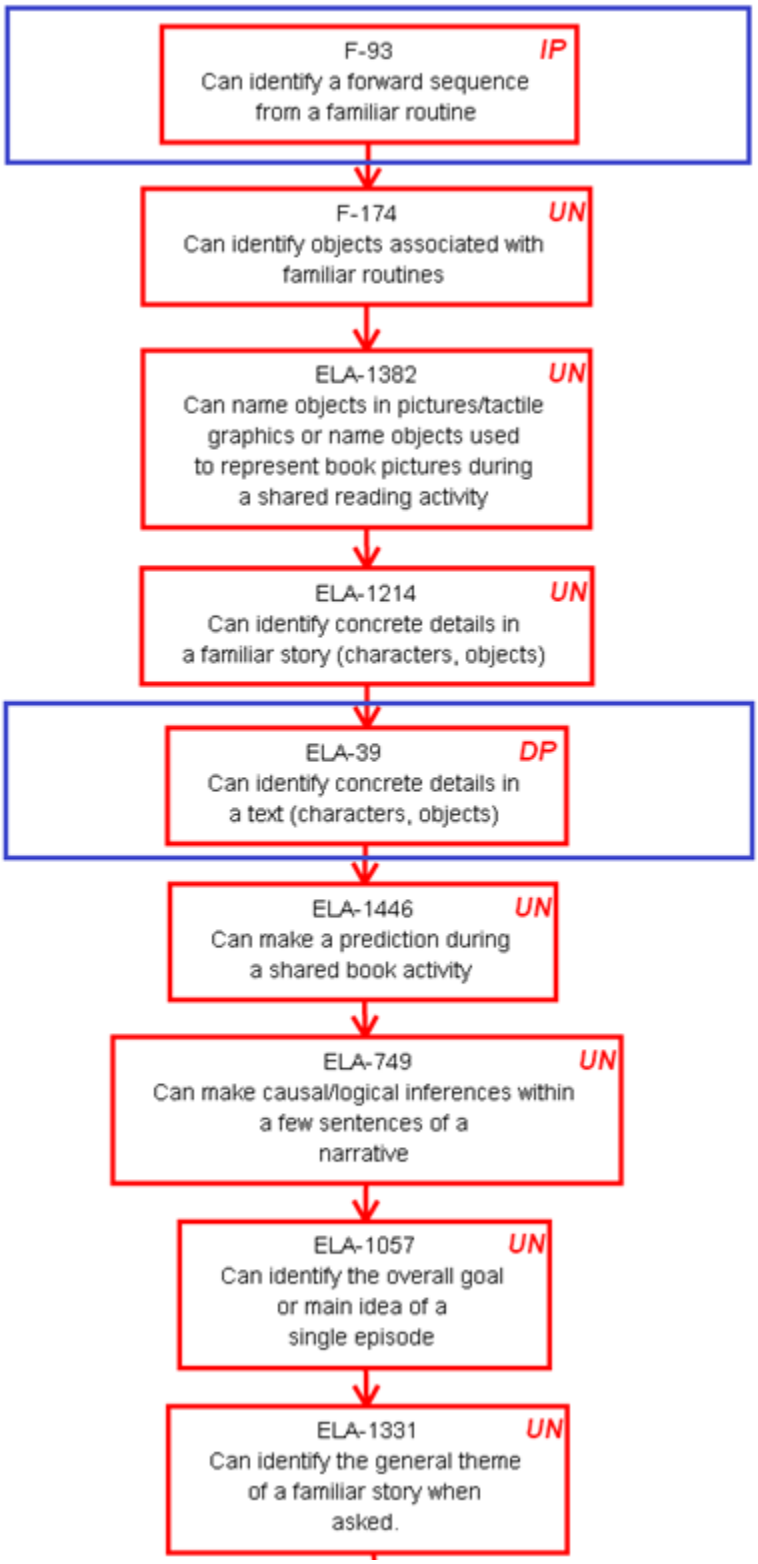
ELA.EE.RL.8.2 - Recount an event related to the theme or central idea, including details about character and setting.



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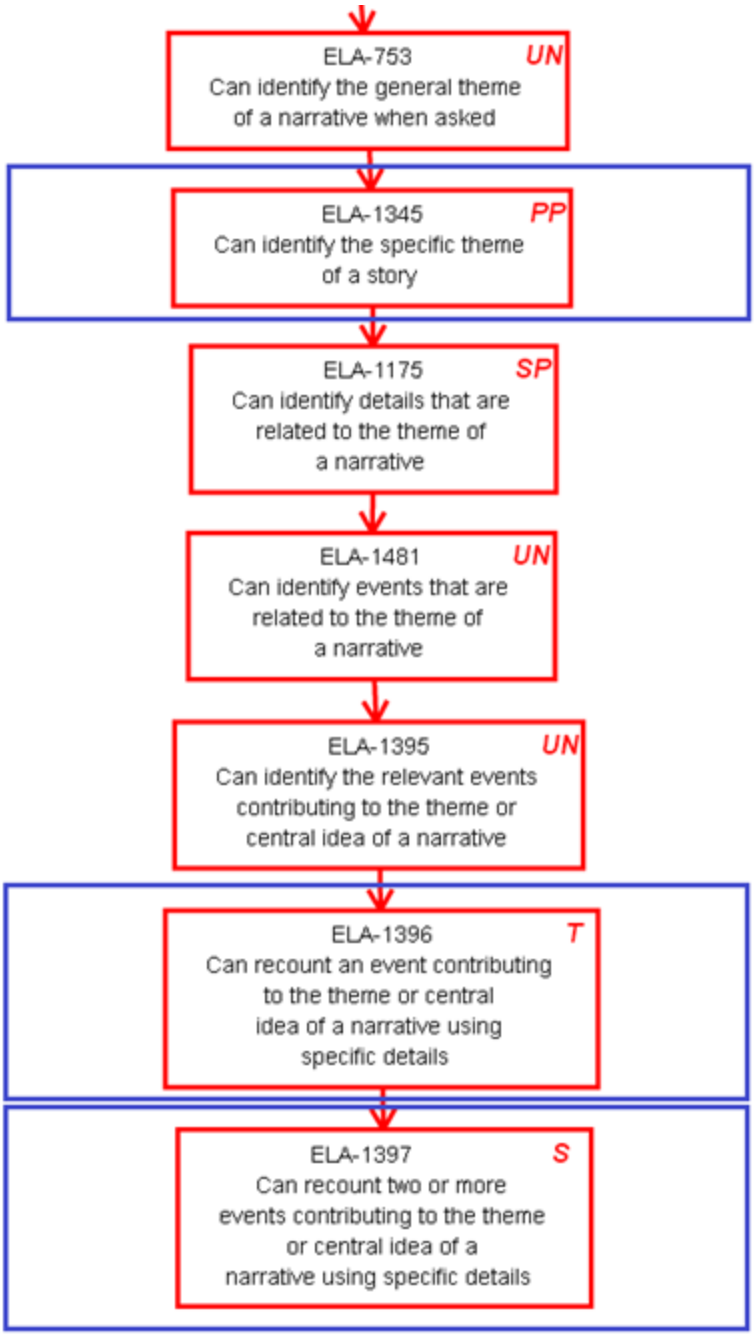

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.4

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts	**ELA.EE.RL.8.4** Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text	**Initial Precursor:** • Can determine when two words have the same, similar, or different meanings or whether meanings of a single word are the same or different **Distal Precursor:** • Can determine the literal meaning of words and phrases using the context in which they are located **Proximal Precursor:** • Can determine the meaning of frequently occurring or transparent simple idioms and figures of speech when reading a narrative **Target:** • Can identify the commonly understood cultural and/or emotional meaning of words and phrases in a text **Successor:** • Can ascertain the figurative meanings of words and phrases in narratives, such as common idioms, analogies, and figures of speech

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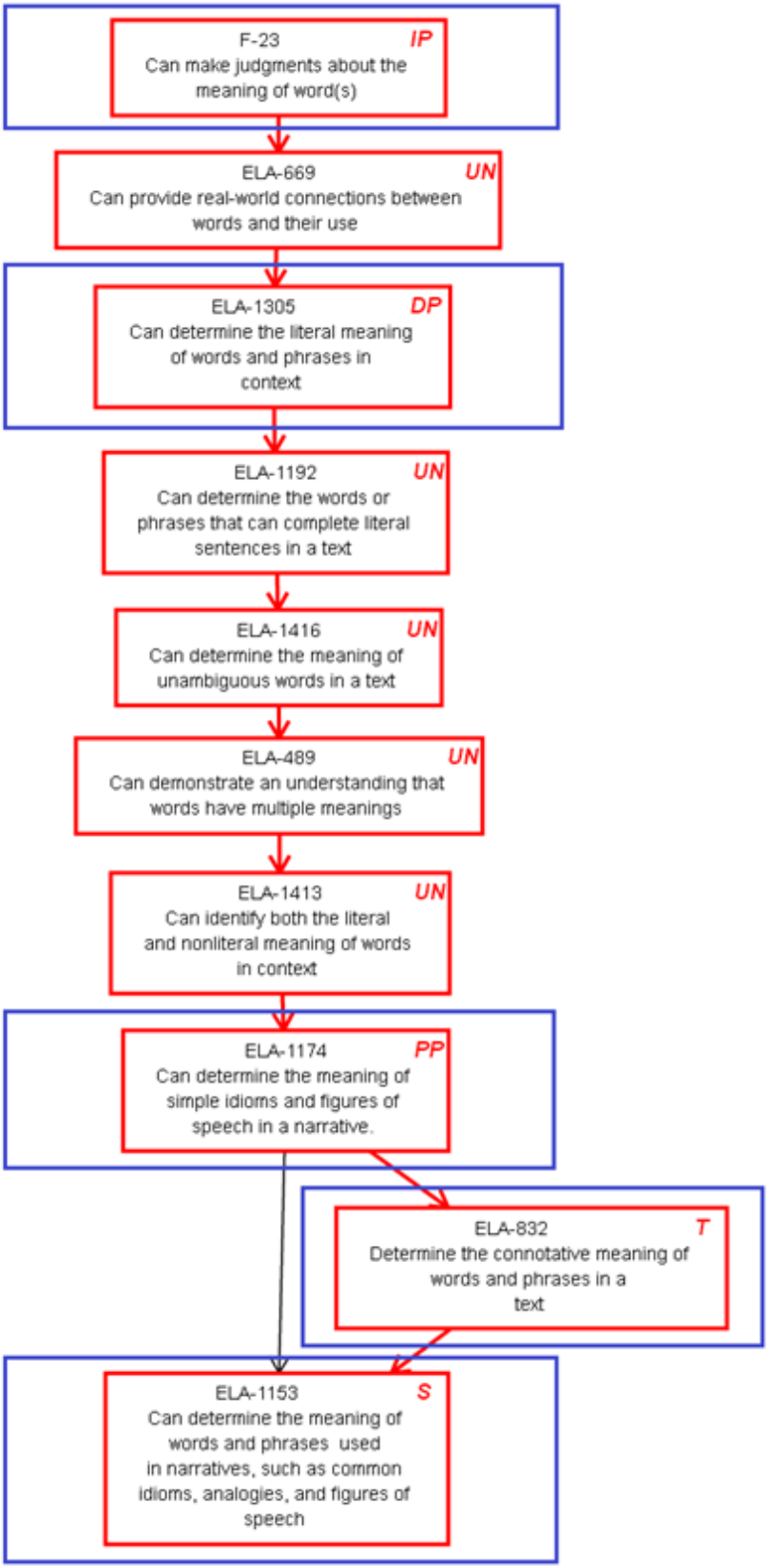
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RL.8.4 - Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.1

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text	**ELA.EE.RI.8.1** Cite text to support inferences from informational text	**Initial Precursor:** • As a result of experience with a routine, the student is able to identify the objects that are used in the routine **Distal Precursor:** • Can identify the concrete details, such as individuals, events, or ideas in familiar informational texts **Proximal Precursor:** • Can use information and details explicitly mentioned in the text for citing **Target:** • Can use information and details inferred from the information and details explicitly mentioned in the text for citing **Successor:** • Can determine which citations refer to explicit information and which citations refer to inferred information in an informational text

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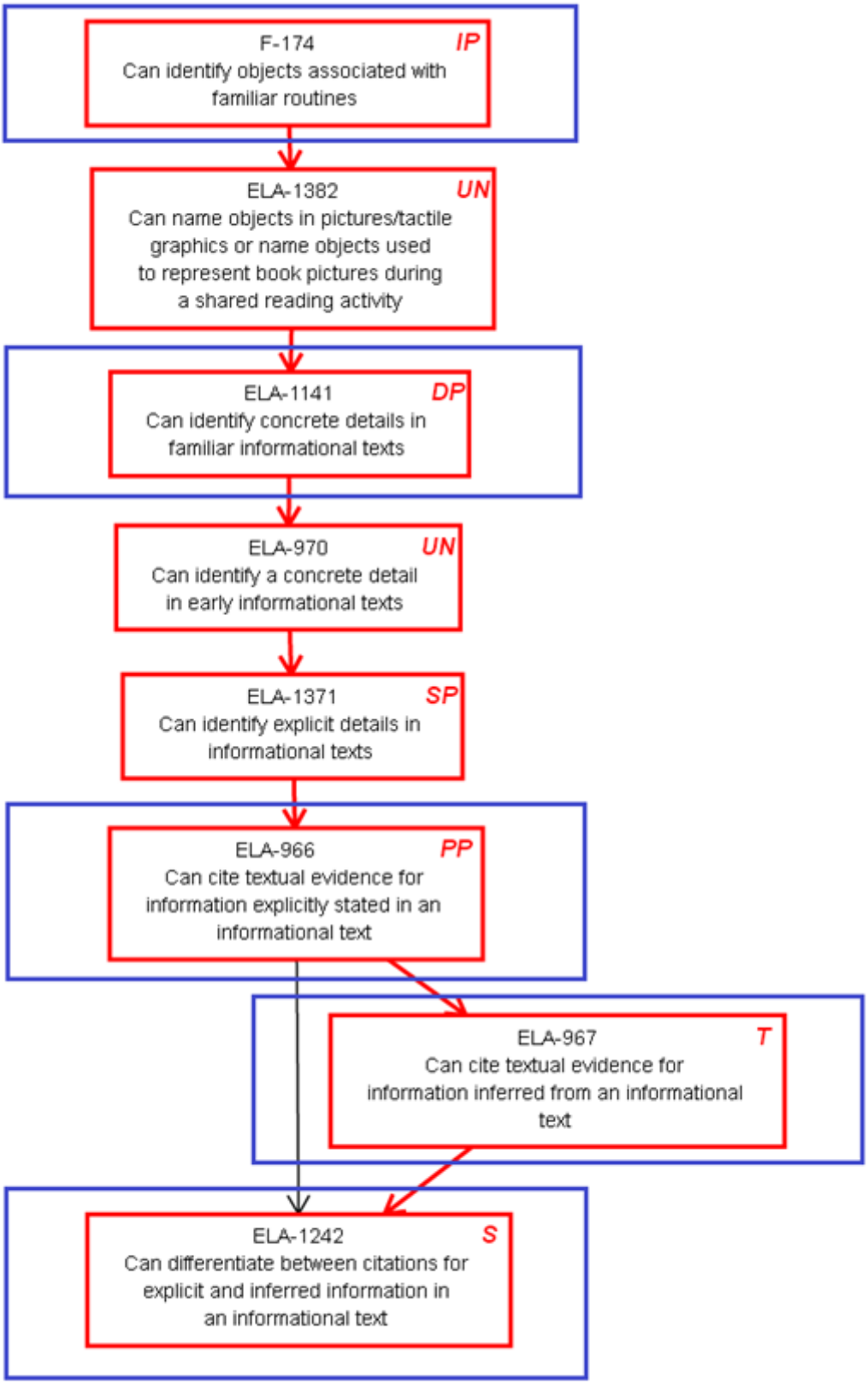
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.1 - Cite text to support inferences from informational text.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.2

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text	**ELA.EE.RI.8.2** Provide a summary of a familiar informational text	**Initial Precursor:** • Can demonstrate an understanding when information is not pertinent to the current task and can prevent this information from affecting their decisions and performance, allowing him or her to focus on the relevant task information **Distal Precursor:** • Able to identify explicit details in an informational text **Proximal Precursor:** • Can determine more than one main idea in an informational text **Target:** • Can summarize the information in a familiar informational text **Successor:** • Can summarize an informational text, including relevant details and descriptive information

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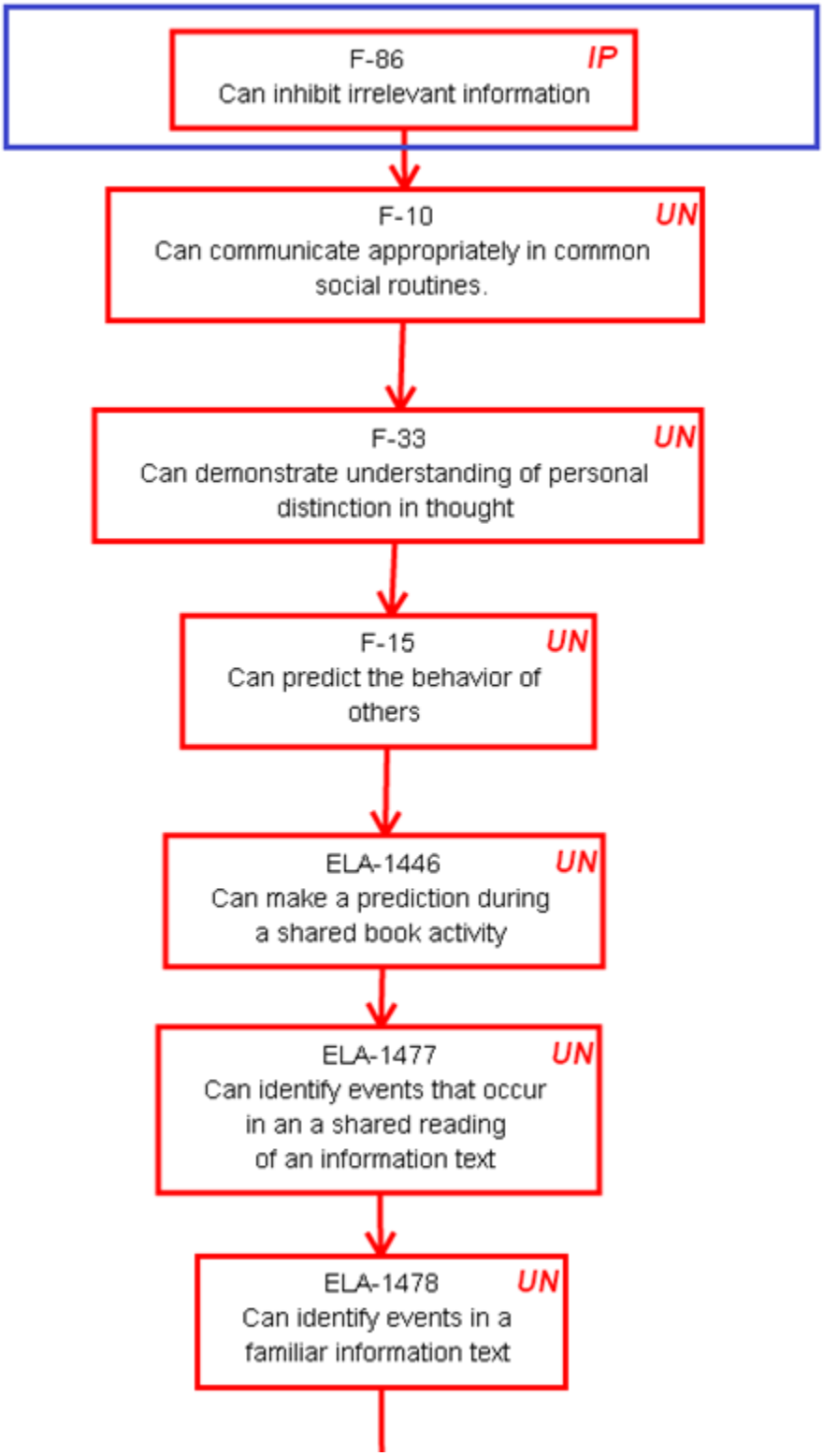
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.2 - Provide a summary of a familiar informational text.



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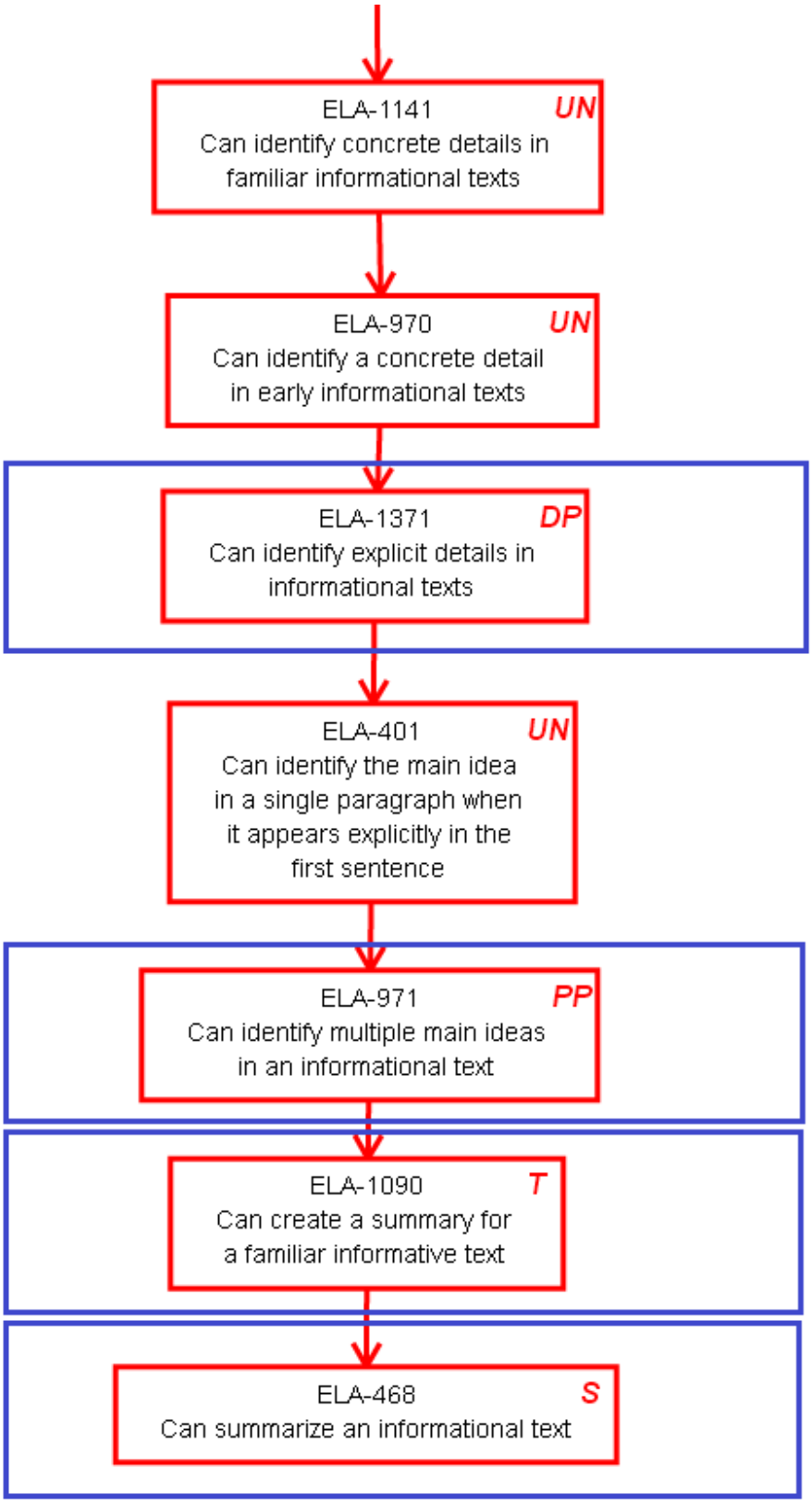

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.4

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts	**ELA.EE.RI.8.4** Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text	**Initial Precursor:** • Can determine when two words have the same, similar, or different meanings or whether meanings of a single word are the same or different **Distal Precursor:** • Can determine the literal meaning of words and phrases using the context in which they are located **Proximal Precursor:** • Can use the surrounding context of a word in a text to determine the meaning of multiple meaning words **Target:** • Can identify the commonly understood cultural and/or emotional meaning of words and phrases in a text **Successor:** • Can determine the figurative meaning of words and phrases as the author intended in an informational text, such as common idioms, analogies, and figures of speech

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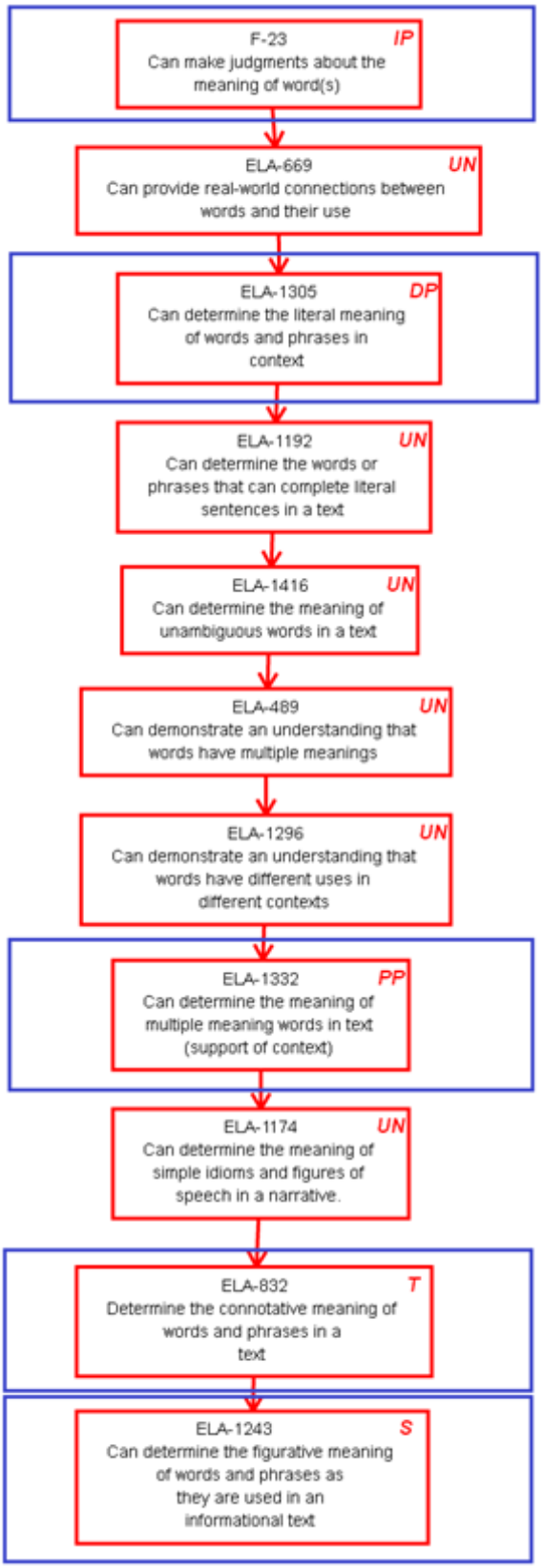
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.4 - Determine connotative meanings of words and phrases in a text.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.6

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints	**ELA.EE.RI.8.6** Determine an author's purpose or point of view and identify examples from text that describe or support it	**Initial Precursor:** • As a result of experience with a routine, the student is able to identify people associated with the routine **Distal Precursor:** • Can identify the concrete details mentioned in beginner level informational texts **Proximal Precursor:** • Can identify the author's point of view or purpose for writing an informational text on the topic at hand. The point of view of an author is his/her physical or mental relationship with a specific event or area of a general topic **Target:** • Can pick out examples in an informational text or a presentation on a topic describing or supporting the author's or presenter's point of view on the topic **Successor:** • Can determine the examples the author provides in an informational text on a topic that indicate or suggest his/her purpose for writing the text

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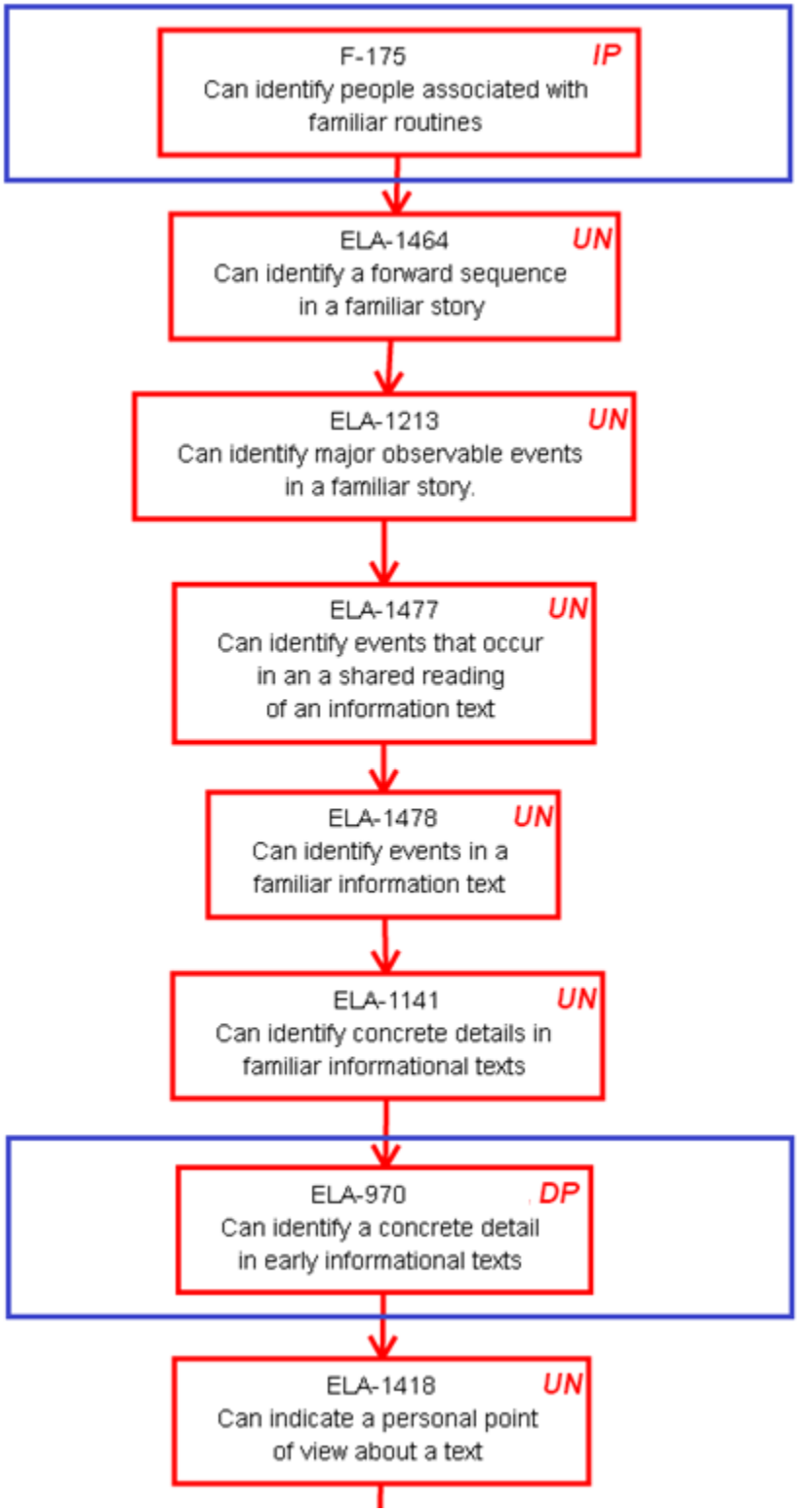
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.6 - Determine an author's purpose or point of view and identify examples from text to that describe or support it.



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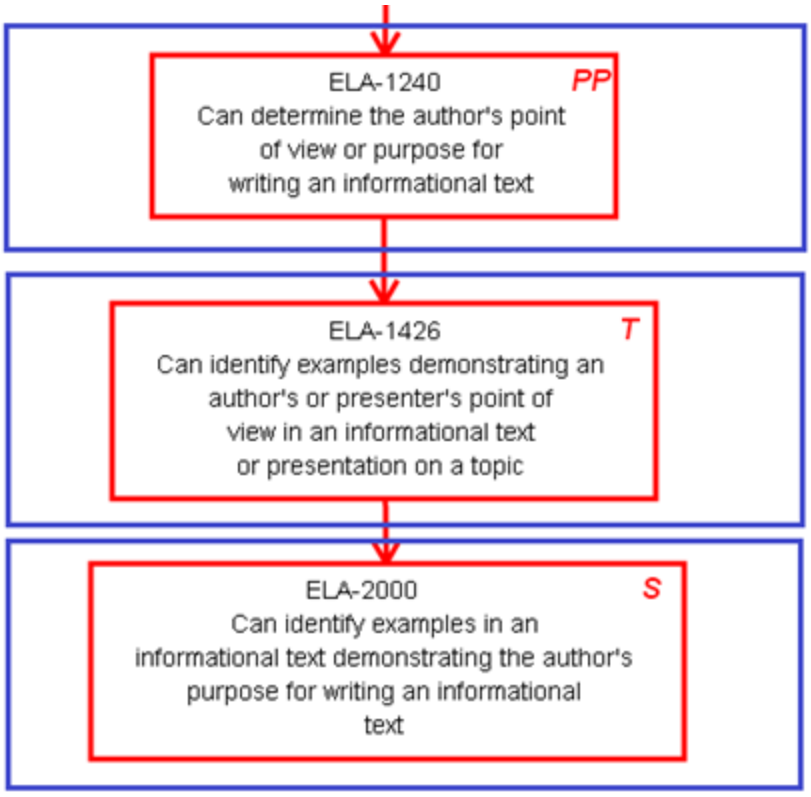

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.8

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced	**ELA.EE.RI.8.8** Determine the argument made by an author in an informational text	**Initial Precursor:** • Realizes that what he or she is thinking or viewing may or may not be the same as what other people see or think **Distal Precursor:** • Can determine what the points are that the author of an unfamiliar informational text is trying to communicate to the reader **Proximal Precursor:** • Can find out how specific points made by an author in an informational text relate to the reasons supporting it **Target:** • Can identify an explicitly made argument (must be overtly stated in the text) in an informational text. Note - locating the argument is similar to noting the overall main idea. In a persuasive text there is a central argument presented with several claims and evidence to back the claims **Successor:** • Can identify an argument as an association between a claim and its evidence

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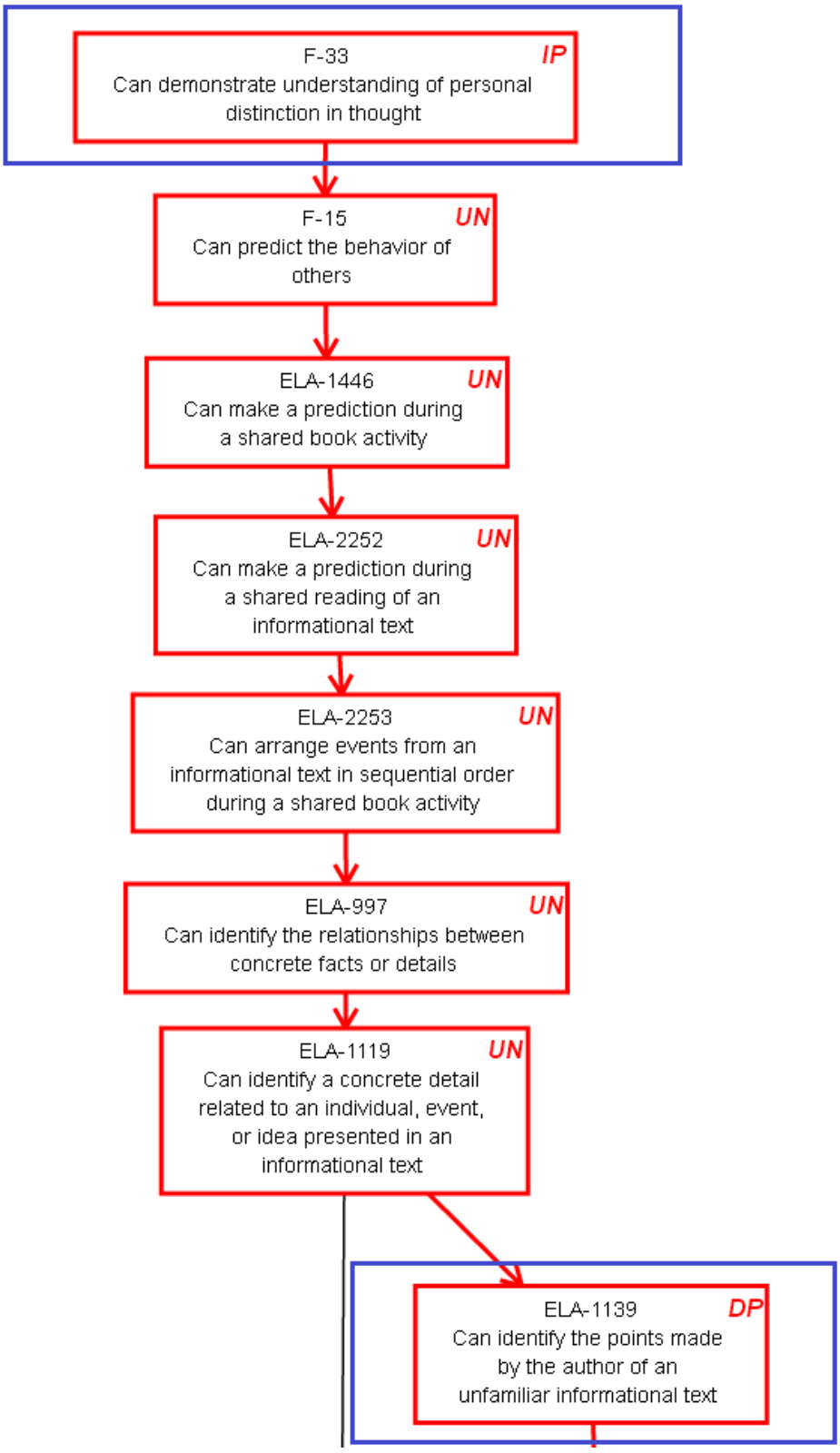
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.8 - Determine the argument made by an author in an informational text.



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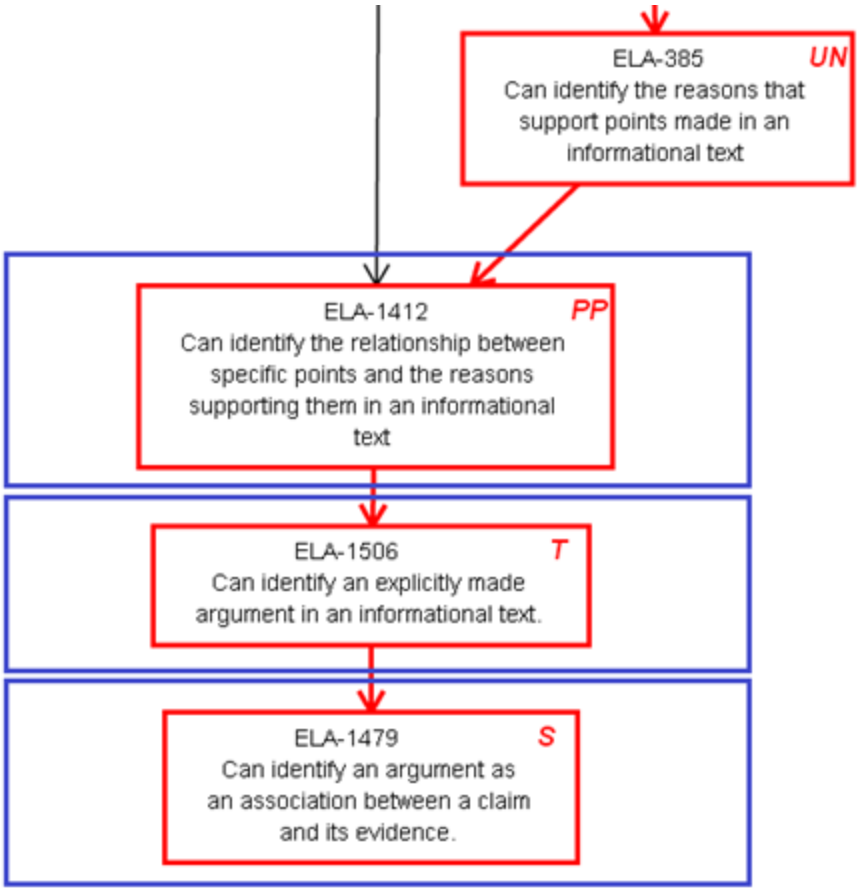

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.L.8.5.A

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.L.8.5.a Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context	**ELA.EE.L.8.5.a** Demonstrate understanding of the use of multiple meaning words	**Initial Precursor:** • Can understand adjectives in others' speech **Distal Precursor:** • Can recognize that the literal meaning of a word or phrase is the meaning directly stated 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 demonstrate an understanding of the use of a multiple meaning word **Successor:** • Can identify the intended meaning of multiple meaning words in a text

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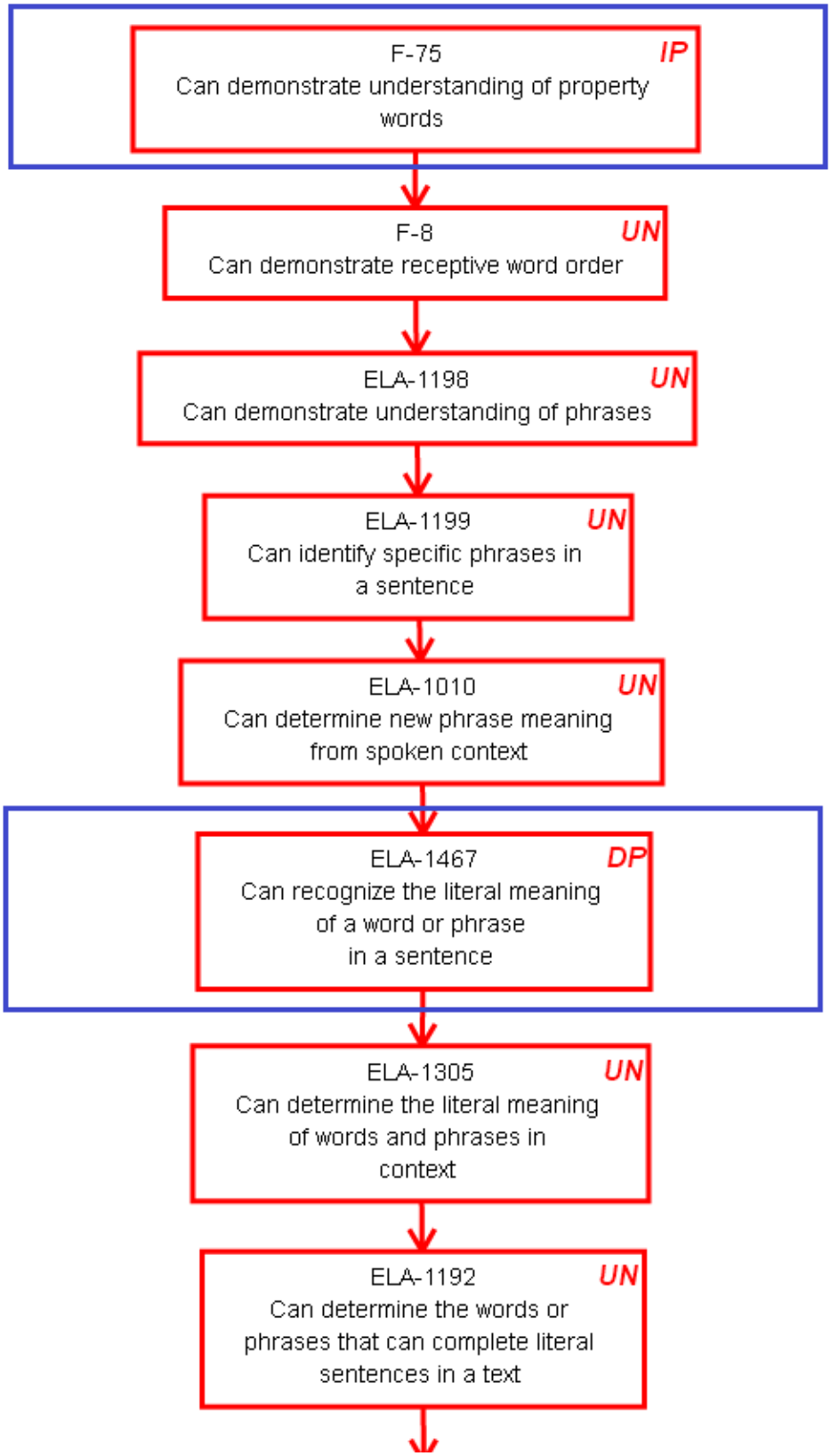
ELA.EE.L.8.5.a - Demonstrate understanding of the use of multiple meaning words.



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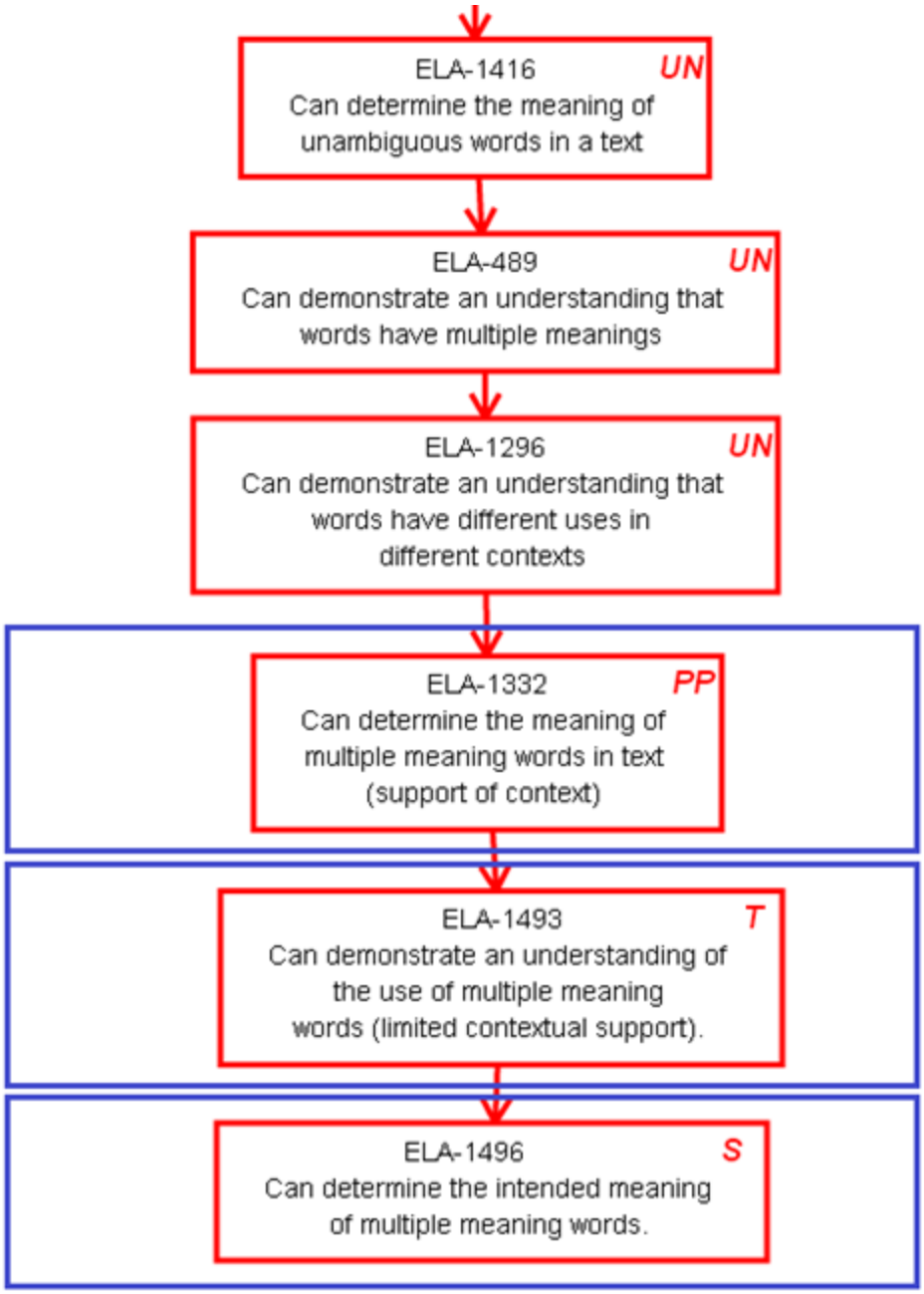

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.3

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision	**ELA.EE.RL.8.3** Identify which incidents in a story or drama lead to subsequent action	**Initial Precursor:** • Comprehends that all objects have some function or action typically associated with it (object action) **Distal Precursor:** • Student can correctly identify how a character responds to a challenge that is presented within a story **Proximal Precursor:** • Can recall the causes of major actions included in a story **Target:** • Can identify the impact that certain events have in a narrative, such as causing subsequent events to occur **Successor:** • Can explain how each of the character's actions in the story is the cause of another action, and how these build on each other towards achieving the overall goal

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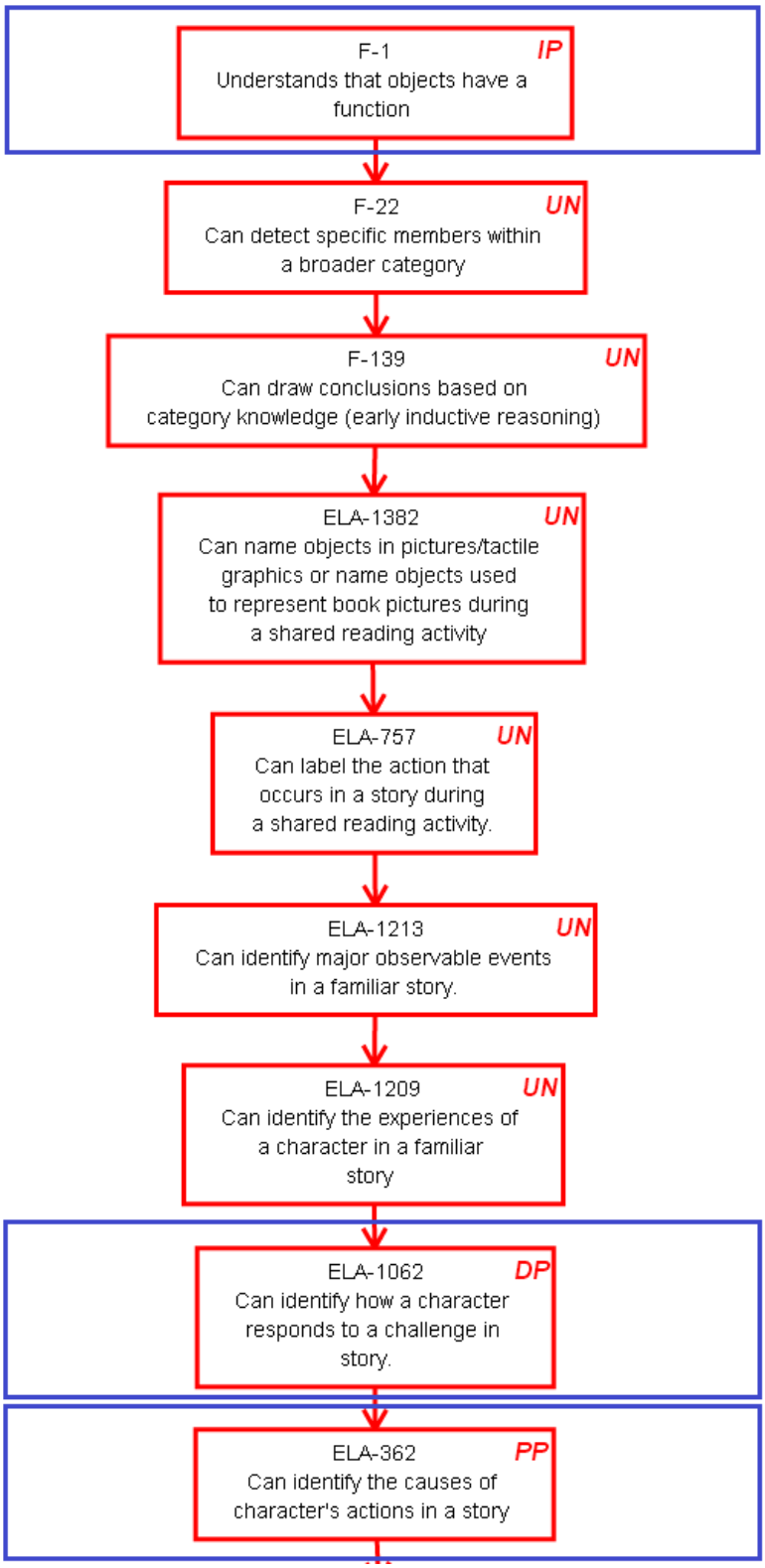
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RL.8.3 - Identify which incidents in a story or drama lead to subsequent action.



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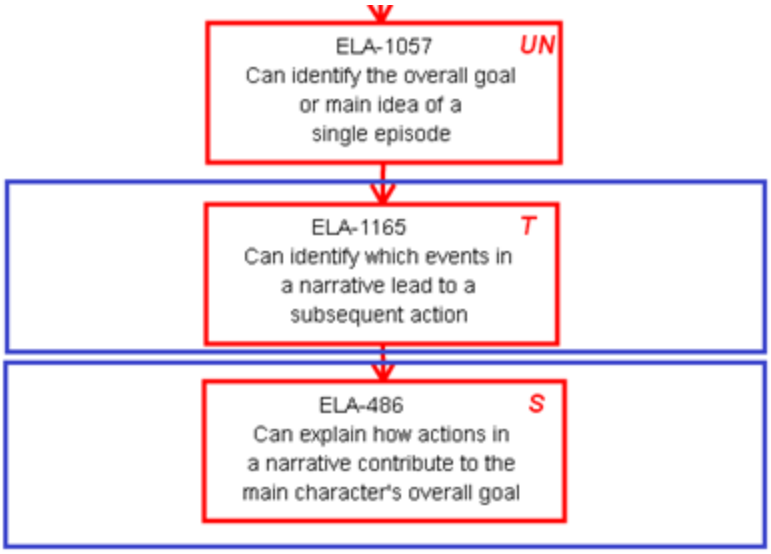

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.5

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RL.8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style	**ELA.EE.RL.8.5** Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts	**Initial Precursor:** • Can identify the next step or event in a sequence from a familiar routine **Distal Precursor:** • Can determine the events that occur at the beginning, middle, and end of a familiar, linear story **Proximal Precursor:** • Student can compare the structure of two or more texts (e.g., stories, poems, or dramas) **Target:** • Student can compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts (e.g., stories, poems, or dramas) **Successor:** • Can identify where a text deviates from a chronological presentation of events

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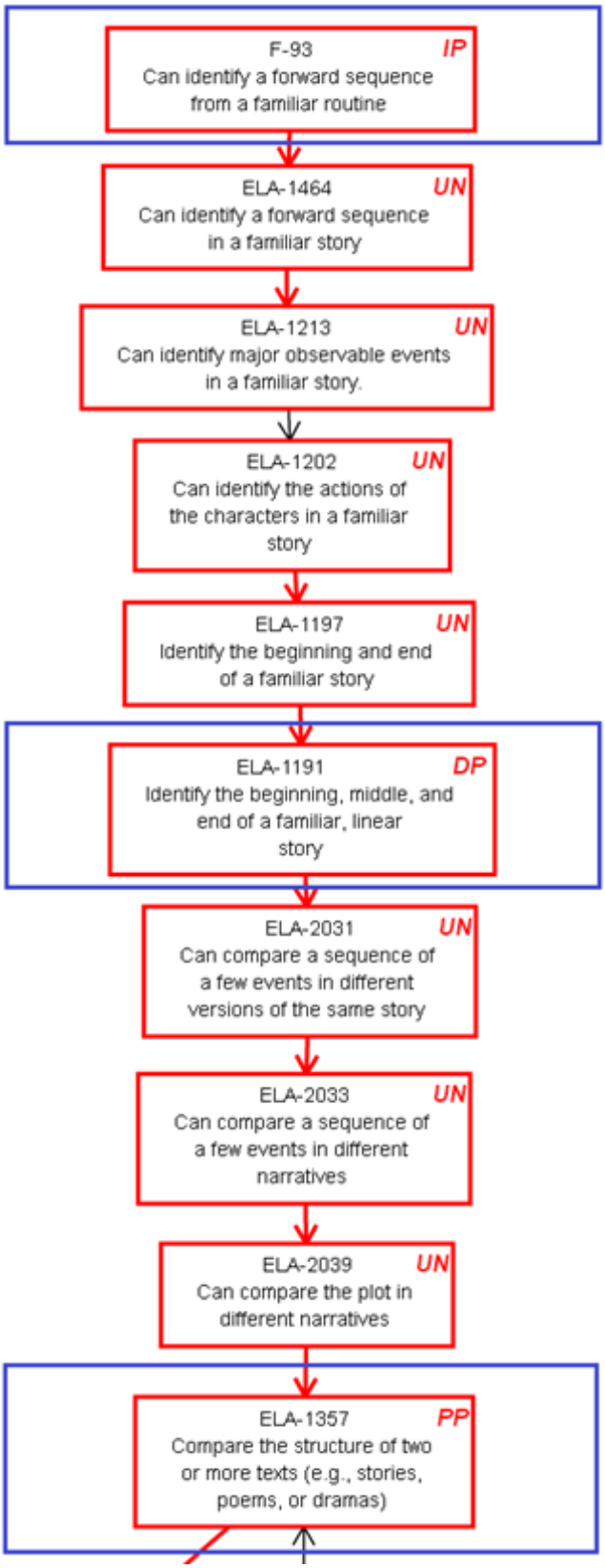
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RL.8.5 - Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts.



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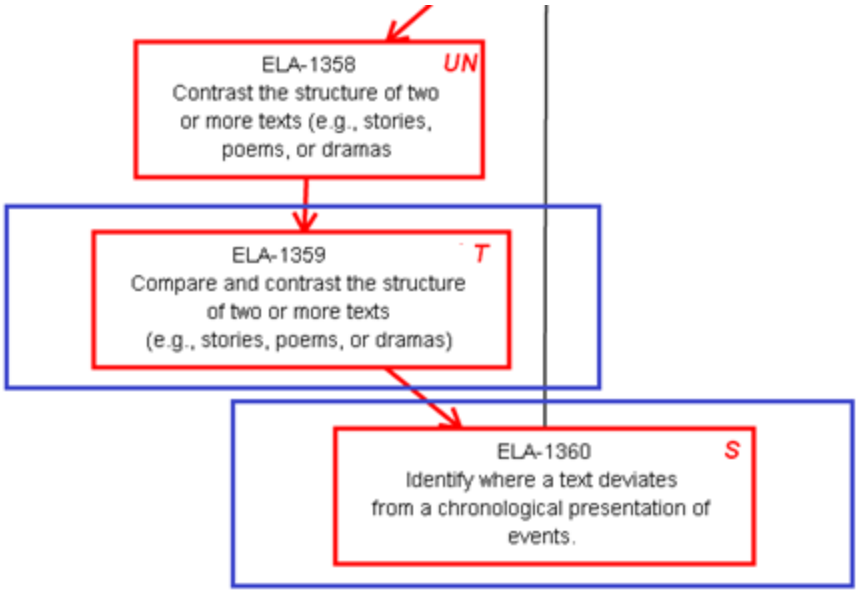

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RL.8.9

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
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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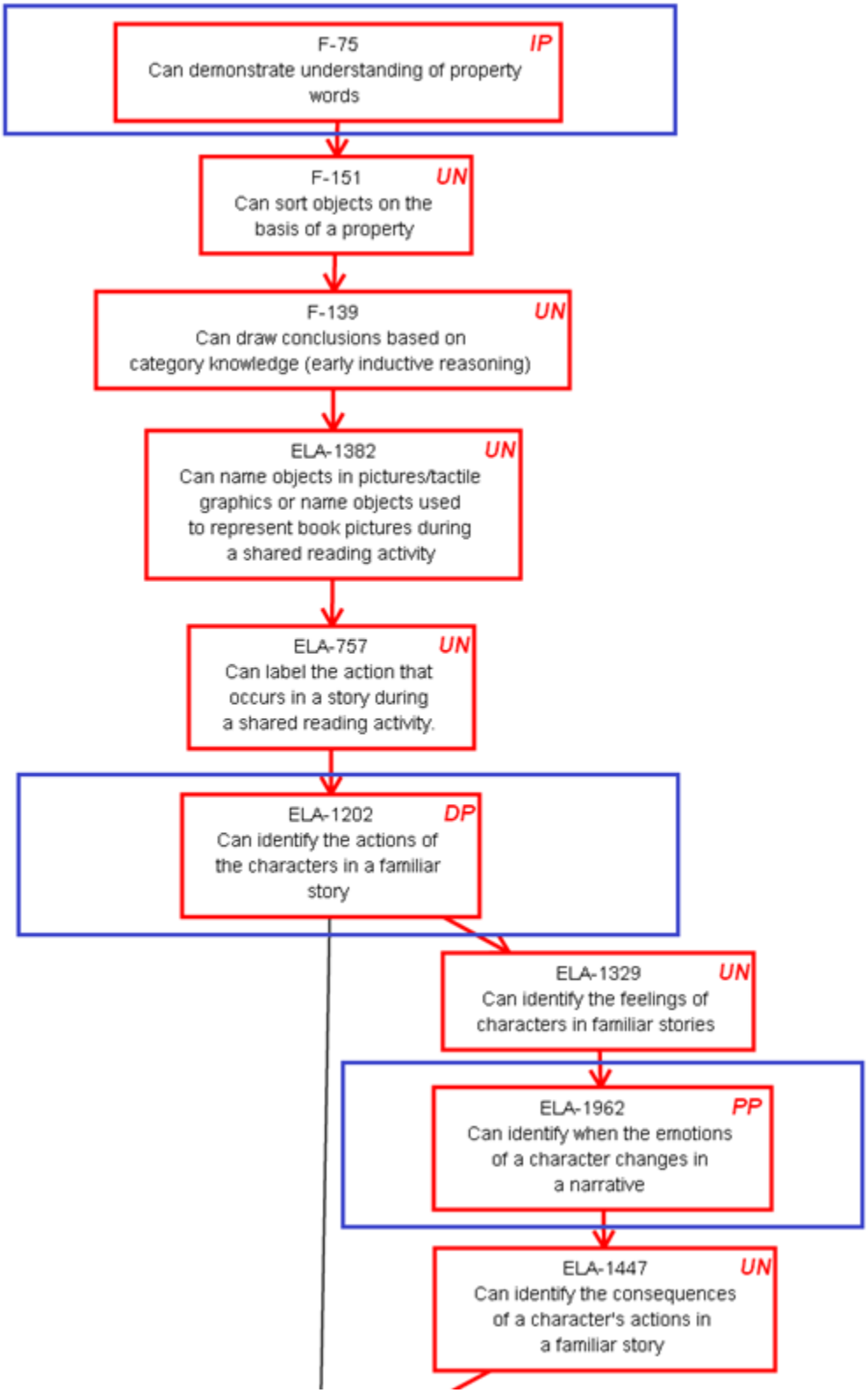
A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

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.8.9 - Compare and contrast themes, patterns of events, or characters across two or more stories or dramas.



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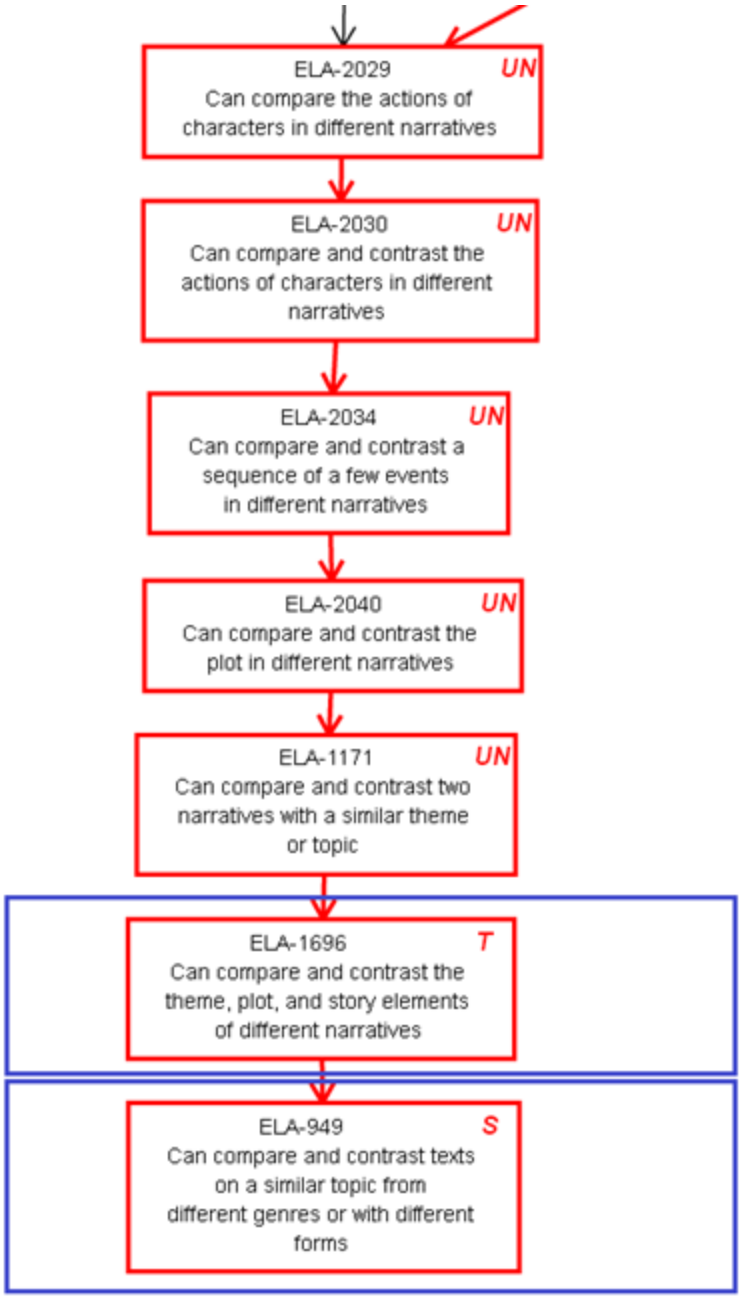

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.3

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories)	**ELA.EE.RI.8.3** Recount events in the order they were presented in the text	**Initial Precursor:** • Can identify the next step or event in a sequence from a familiar routine **Distal Precursor:** • Can identify the concrete details mentioned in beginner level informational texts **Proximal Precursor:** • Can identify the relationship between multiple concrete facts or details in a literature or informational text **Target:** • Can recall and describe the events and details in an informational text in the same order as they appeared in the text **Successor:** • Can ascertain the logical relationship or interaction between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or other details in an informational text

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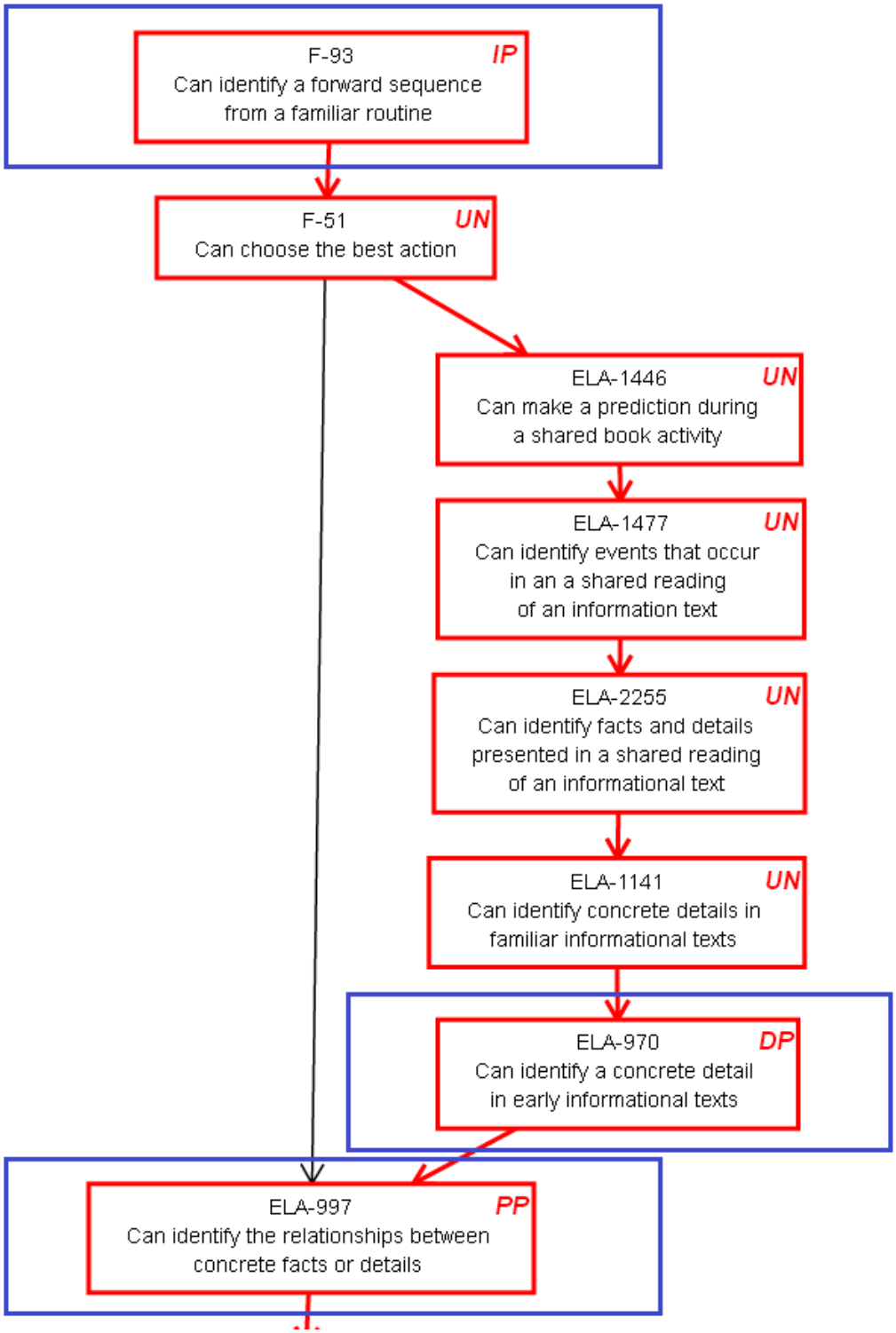
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.3 - Recount events in the order they were presented in the text.



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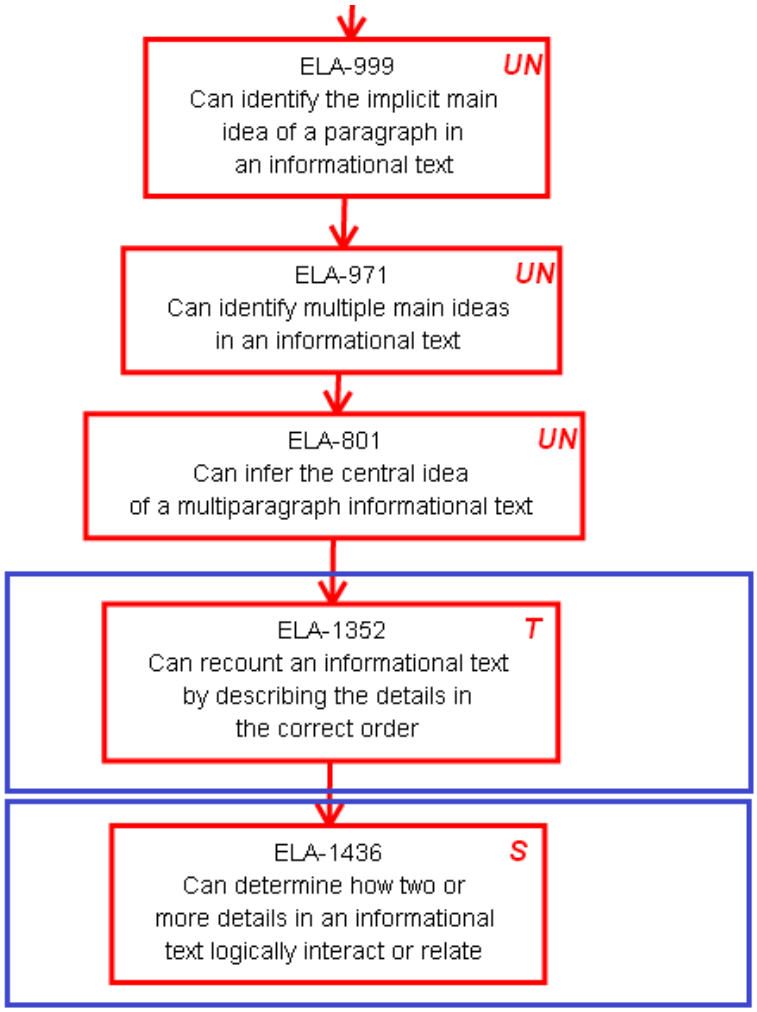

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.RI.8.9

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.RI.8.9 Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation	**ELA.EE.RI.8.9** Identify where two different texts on the same topic differ in their interpretation of the details	**Initial Precursor:** • Realizes that what he or she is thinking or viewing may or may not be the same as what other people see or think **Distal Precursor:** • Can determine the specific claims made by a speaker or author **Proximal Precursor:** • Can determine the specific points that an author or speaker uses that corroborate and support a claim **Target:** • Can identify how authors of two different informational texts on the same topic use details differently when forming their interpretations **Successor:** • Can identify similarities in how different informational texts on the same topic handle and/or explain alternative viewpoints

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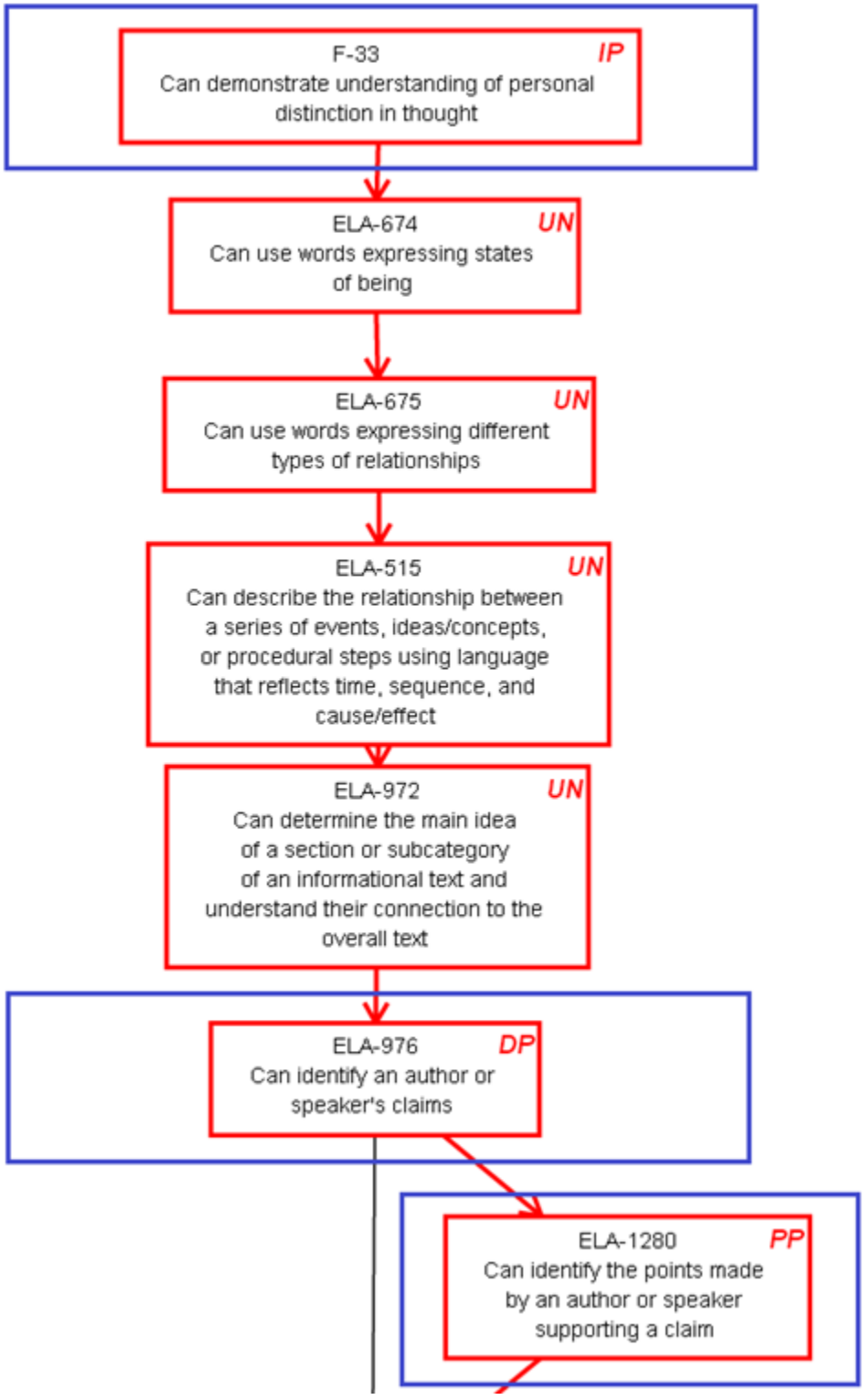
T	Target		

ELA.EE.RI.8.9 - Identify where two different texts on the same topic differ in their interpretation of the details.



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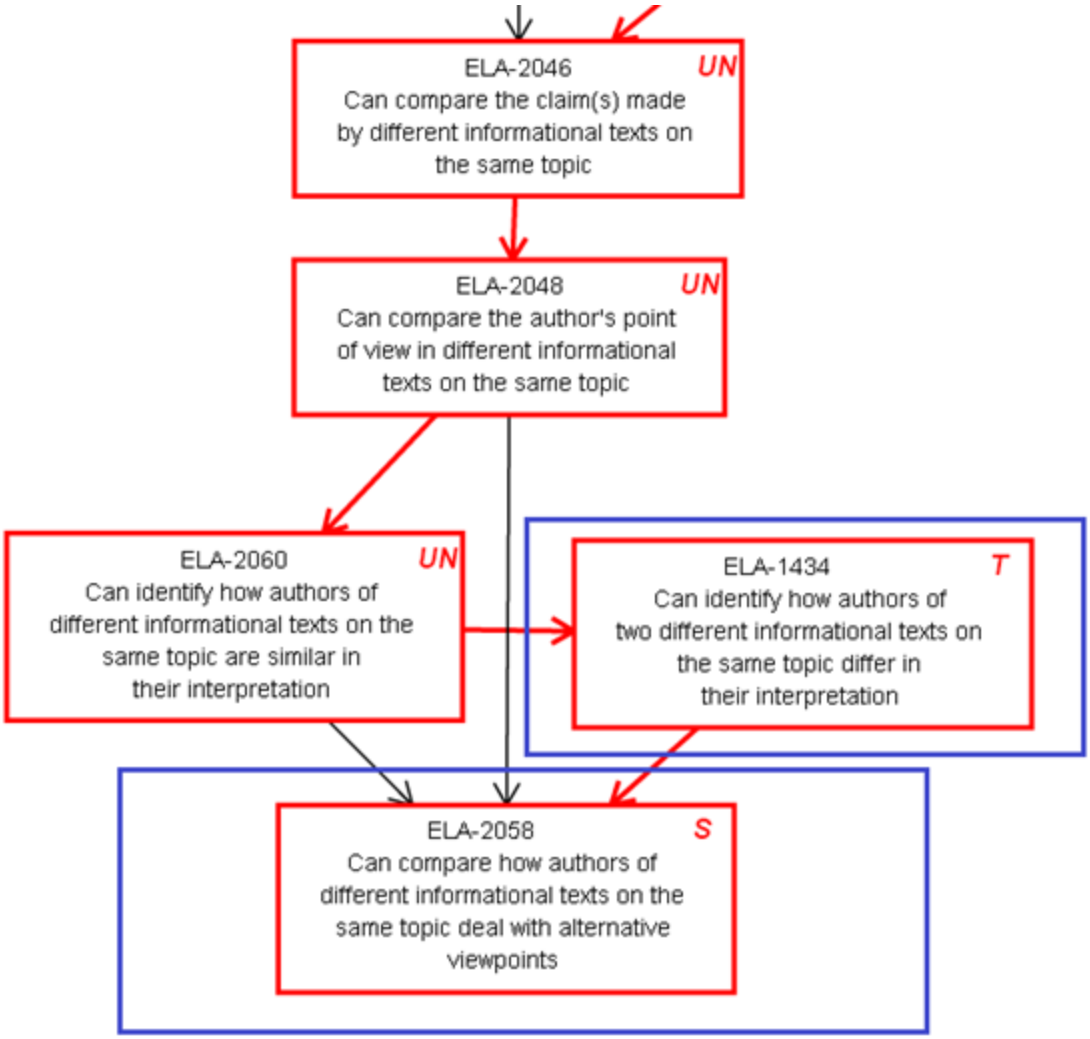

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.W.8.2.A

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.W.8.2.a Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension	**ELA.EE.W.8.2.a** Introduce a topic clearly and write to convey ideas and information about it including visual, tactual, or multimedia information as appropriate	**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):** • **Initial Precursor:** Given a choice of two objects, uses eye-gaze, physical movement, gesture or vocalization to indicate choice • **Distal Precursor:** Can respond to wh-questions regarding choice of topic and other questions related to writing about the topic.
		CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8): • **Proximal Precursor:** Can select a topic for writing an informational text and then find information that is either tactile, visual, or multimedia for use when writing the text • **Target:** Can introduce an informational topic while writing and extend by writing about ideas and information related to the topic • **Successor:** Student is able to produce an informational piece of writing in which the topic is clearly introduced and the details about the topic (may be visual, tactual, or multimedia) are presented within a clear organizational structure

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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
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PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

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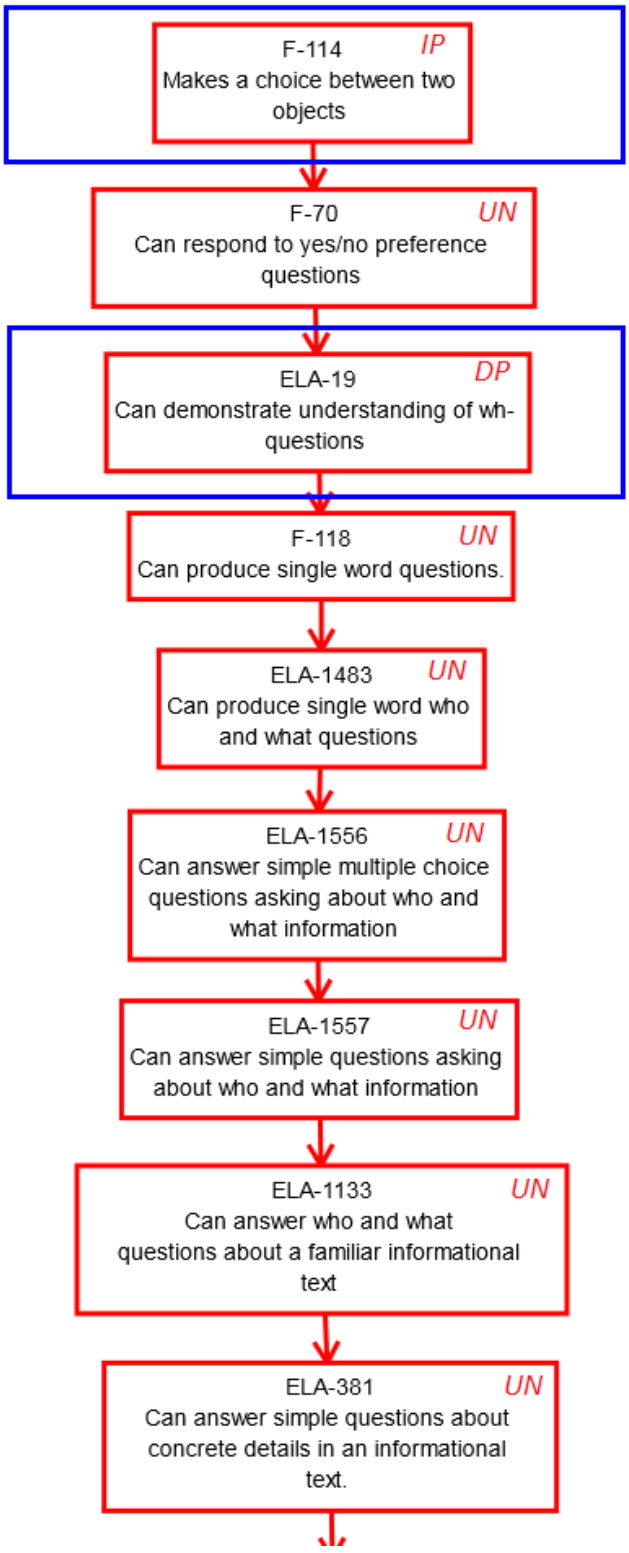
ELA.EE.W.8.2.a - Introduce a topic clearly and write to convey ideas and information about it including visual, tactual, or multimedia information as appropriate.



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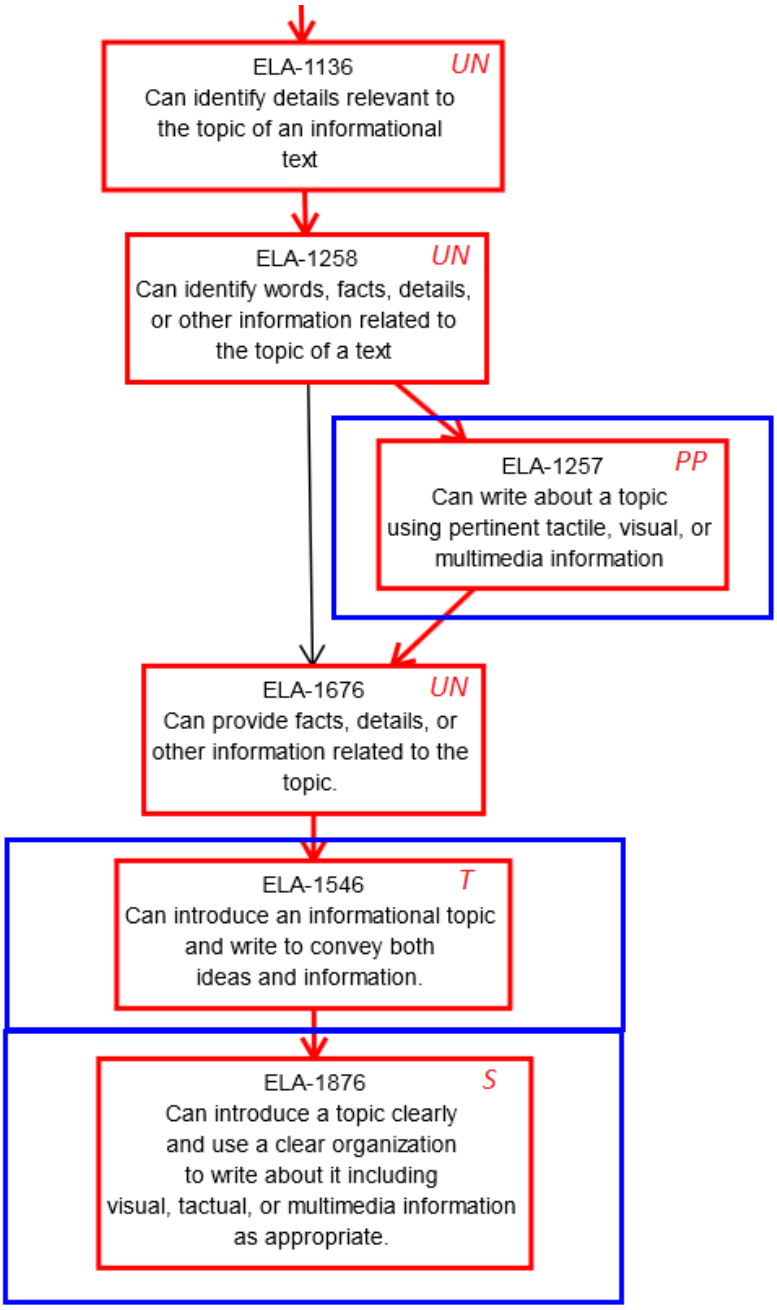

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.W.8.2.B

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.W.8.2.b Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples	**ELA.EE.W.8.2.b** Write one or more facts or details related to the topic	**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):** • **Initial Precursor:** Can determine some of the relevant words for describing people, places, things, or events familiar to the student • **Distal Precursor:** Can use perceptual words (describe a noun's features) to describe common persons, places, objects, or events
		CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8): • **Proximal Precursor:** Student is already able to identify facts and details related to topic from a set of choices. Now they are able to provide written facts, details and/or information about a topic • **Target:** Student is able to put facts or details identified about a topic into writing • **Successor:** Can develop a topic with facts or details related to the topic

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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:

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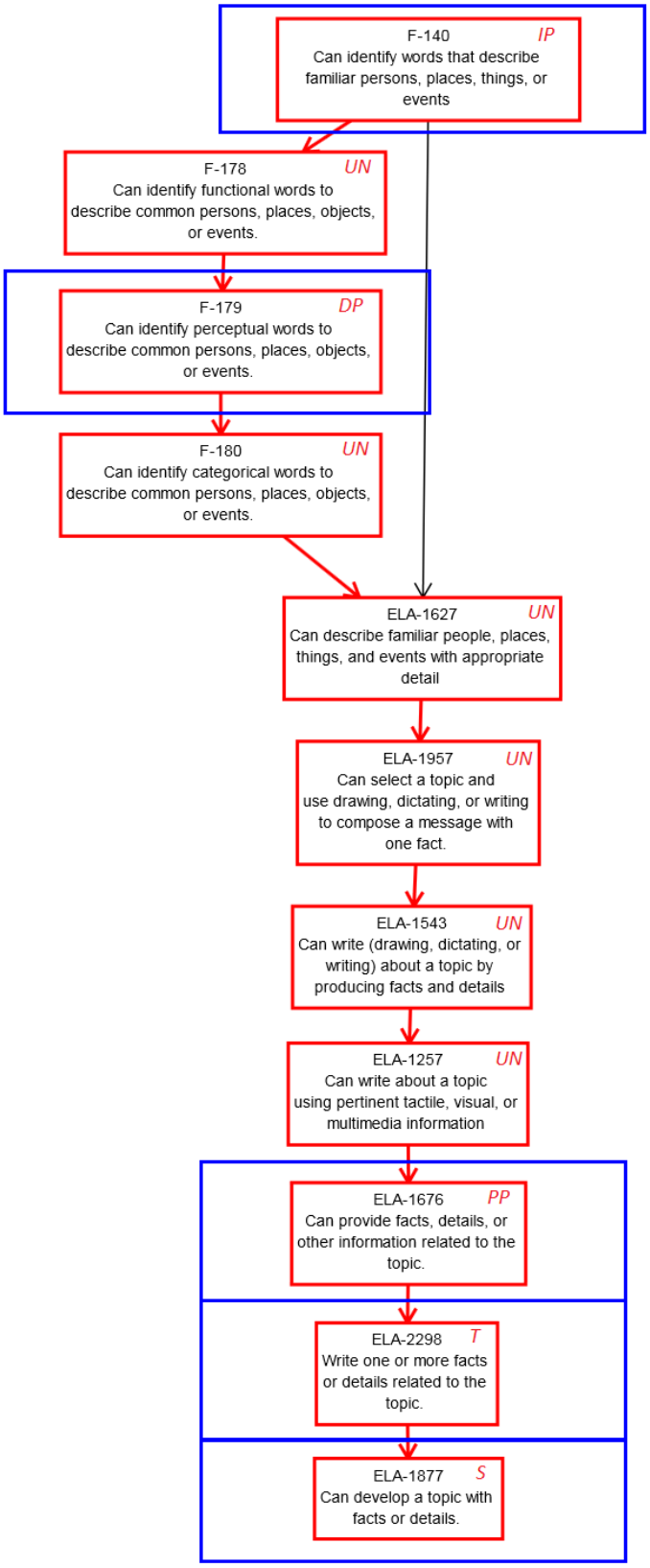
DP	Distal Precursor	S	Successor
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

ELA.EE.W.8.2.b - Write one or more facts or details related to the topic.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.W.8.2.C

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.W.8.2.c Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts	**ELA.EE.W.8.2.c** Write complete thoughts as appropriate	**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):** • **Initial Precursor:** Can produce single word utterances • **Distal Precursor:** Can produce utterances comprising of two words
		CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8): • **Proximal Precursor:** Can use two words together when producing a written text • **Target:** Student is able to produce a complete thought in writing. Up to this point, students may produce writing that requires some interpretation or context to understand (e.g., frg lgs = frogs use their legs to jump). By this node students are able to create a complete thought (e.g., Frogs jump). The produced thought may not be grammatically correct (i.e., The frogs can jump), but still conveys a complete thought or idea • **Successor:** Can write coherent, semantically accurate, and grammatically correct simple sentences

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DP	Distal Precursor	S	Successor
PP	Proximal Precursor	UN	Untested
T	Target		

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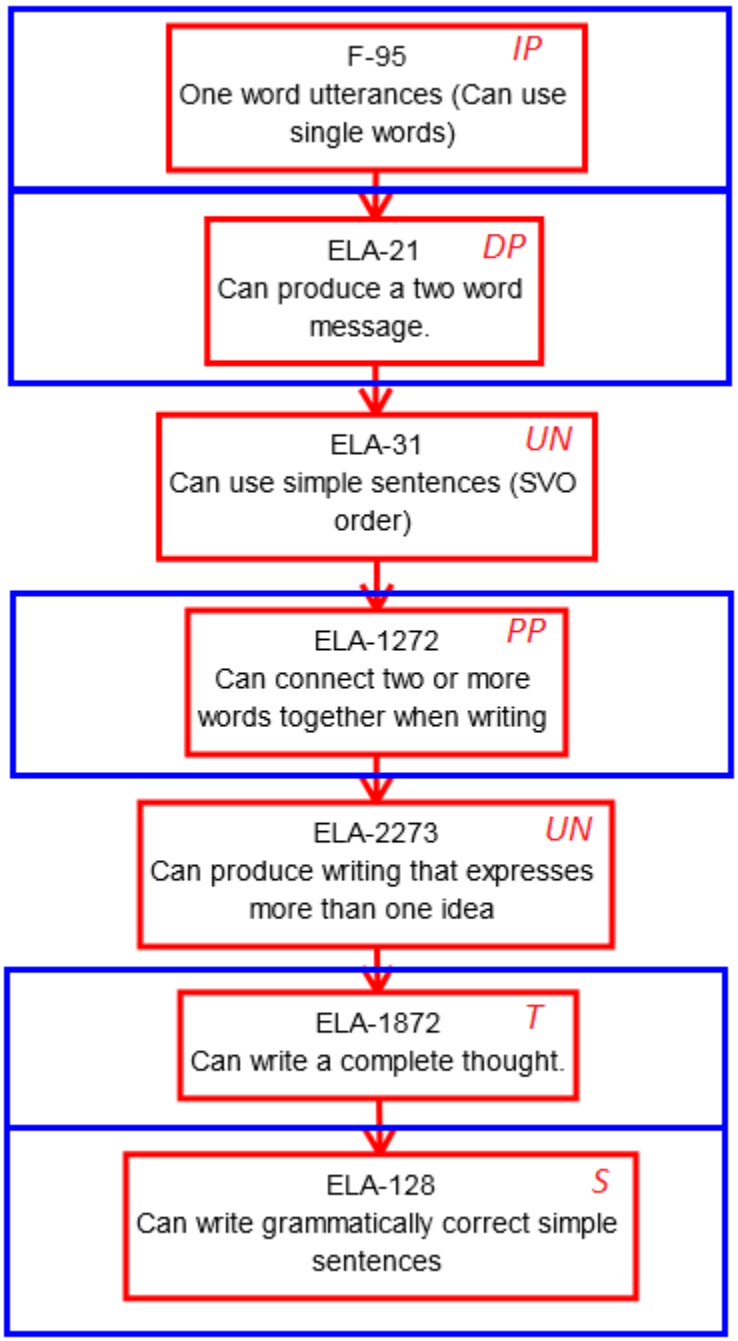
ELA.EE.W.8.2.c - Write complete thoughts as appropriate.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.W.8.2.D

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.W.8.2.d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic	**ELA.EE.W.8.2.d** Use domain specific vocabulary related to the topic	**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):** • **Initial Precursor:** When supplied with a member of a category, can determine if the member belongs in the category • **Distal Precursor:** Using their categorical knowledge, can make generalizations about the category to novel instances of that category
		CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8): • **Proximal Precursor:** Student is able to select domain-specific words to use for writing about a topic • **Target:** Can include domain-specific vocabulary when writing an informative text • **Successor:** Can use domain-specific vocabulary to strengthen claims in informative writing (student is both able to write claims at this stage and can appropriately make use of domain specific vocabulary to enhance claims)

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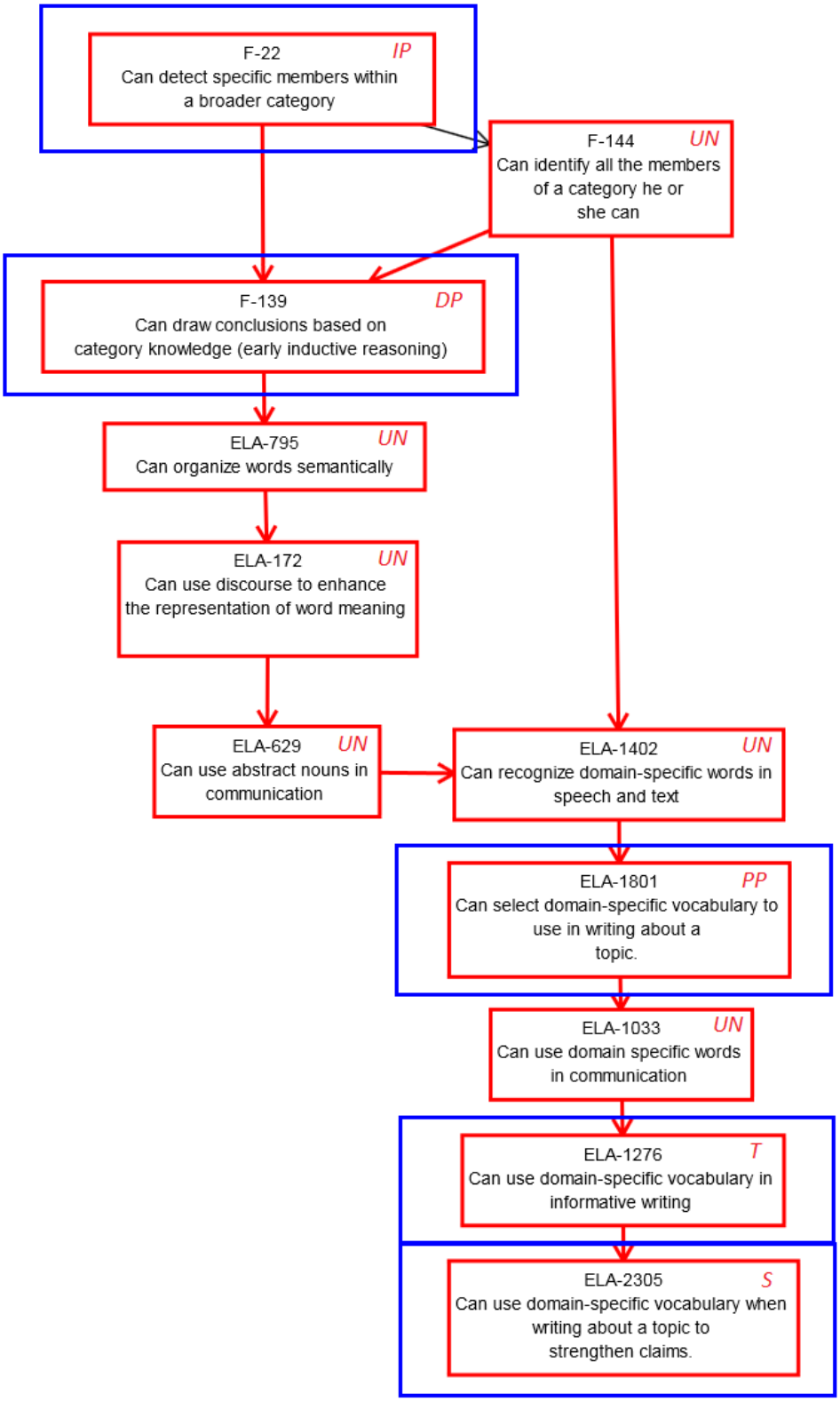
T	Target		

ELA.EE.W.8.2.d - Use domain specific vocabulary related to the topic.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
ELA: GRADE 8
ELA.EE.W.8.2.F

Grade-Level Standard	DLM Essential Element	Linkage Levels
ELA.W.8.2.f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented	**ELA.EE.W.8.2.f** Provide a closing	**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8):** • **Initial Precursor:** As a result of the experience with a routine, the student is able to identify the end or completion of a routine • **Distal Precursor:** Can produce a universal ending in writing (e.g., the student can write "the end")
		CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8): • **Proximal Precursor:** Can write a concluding sentence, statement, or section of a written text to bring together all the information presented in the text • **Target:** Can produce a conclusion for a text he or she is writing • **Successor:** Can create a writing piece that includes a conclusion that is relevant to the main topic of the piece

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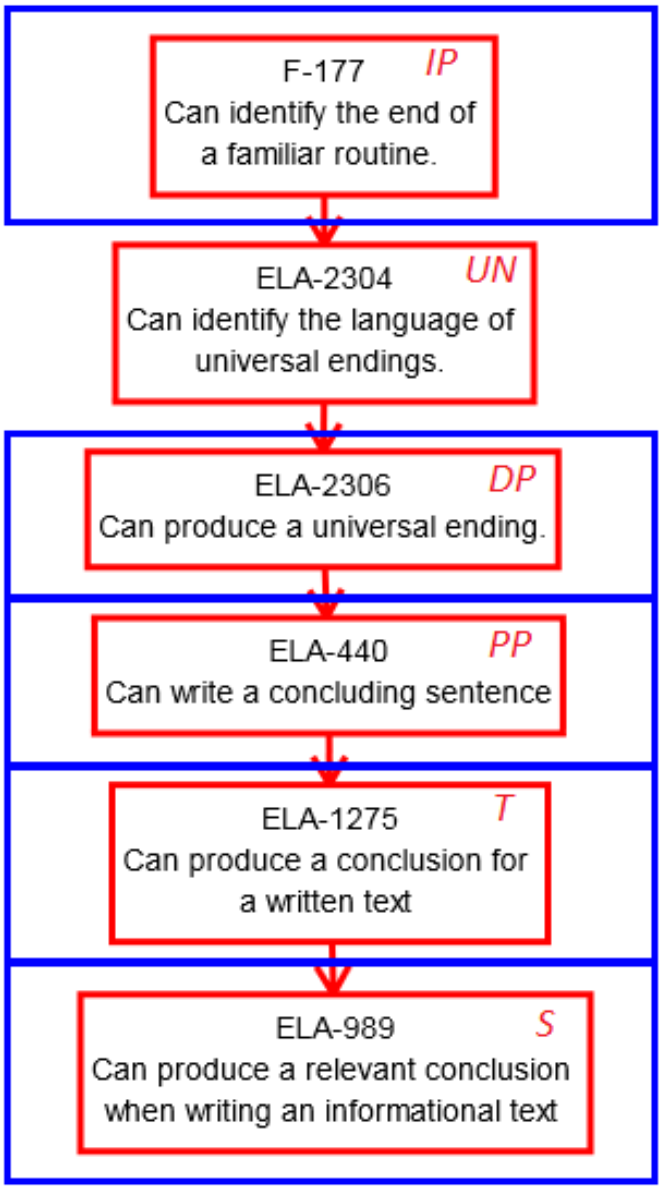
T	Target		

ELA.EE.W.8.2.f - Provide a closing.



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