

UNIVERSAL THEMES & GENERALIZATIONS

Sample Themes

1. Change	6. Patterns
2. Conflict	7. Power
3. Exploration	8. Structure
4. Force or Influence	9. Systems
5. Order vs. Chaos	10. Relationships

Generalizations from Themes

1. Change

- Change generates additional change
- Change can be either positive or negative
- Change is inevitable
- Change is necessary for growth
- Change can be evolutionary or revolutionary

2. Conflict

- Conflict is composed of opposing forces or needs
- Conflict may be natural or human made
- Conflict may be intentional or unintentional
- Conflict may allow for synthesis and change
- Conflict can inspire fights or flight
- Conflict may inspire interest and attention

3. Exploration

- Exploration requires recognizing purpose and responding to it
- Exploration confronts “the unknown”
- Exploration may result in “new findings” or the confirmation of “old findings”

4. Force or Influence

- Force attracts, holds, or repels
- Force affects or changes
- Force and inertia are co-dependent
- Force may be countered with equal or greater force

5. Order vs. Chaos

- Order may be natural or constructed

- Order may allow for prediction
- Order is a form of communication
- Order may have repeated patterns
- Order and chaos are reciprocals
- Order leads to chaos and chaos leads to order

6. Patterns

- Patterns have segments that are repeated
- Patterns allow for prediction
- Patterns have an internal order
- Patterns are enablers
- Patterns can limit

7. Power

- Power is the ability to influence
- Power may be used or abused
- Power is always present in some form
- Power may take many forms (chemical, electrical, mechanical, political, spiritual)

8. Structure

- Structures have parts that interrelate
- Parts of structures support and are supported by other parts
- Smaller structures may be combined to form larger structures
- A structure is no stronger than its weakest component parts

9. Systems

- Systems have parts that work to complete a task
- Systems are composed of sub-systems
- Parts of systems are interdependent upon one another and form symbiotic relationships
- A system may be influenced by other systems
- Systems interact
- Systems follow rules

10. Relationships

- Everything is related in some way
- All relationships are purposeful
- Relationships change over time