UNIVERSAL THEMES & GENERALIZATIONS

Sample Themes

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Force or Influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Order vs. Chaos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Adapted from *Curriculum Guide for the Education of Gifted High School Students*, Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented, 1991

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• 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

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