UNIVERSAL THEMES AND GENERALIZATIONS

1. CHANGE
   - change generates additional change
   - change can be either positive/negative
   - change is inevitable
   - change is necessary for growth
   - change can be evolutionary or revolutionary

2. CONFLICT
   - conflict is composed of opposing forces
   - conflict may be natural or human-made
   - conflict may be intentional or unintentional
   - conflict may allow for synthesis and change

3. 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

4. PATTERNS

5. POWER

6. STRUCTURE

7. SYSTEMS

8. RELATIONSHIPS
4. Patterns
- patterns have segments that are repeated
- patterns allow for prediction
- patterns have an internal order
- patterns are enablers

5. 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, political, mechanical)

6. 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 part

7. 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

8. Relationships
- everything is related in some way
- all relationships are purposeful
- relationships change over time

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