

Theories of Relativity

The NOVEL:

“When his volatile mother throws him out of the house and he loses contact with his two younger brothers, sixteen-year-old Dylan is forced to live on the streets and beg for money, yet through it all, he finds a way to survive.”

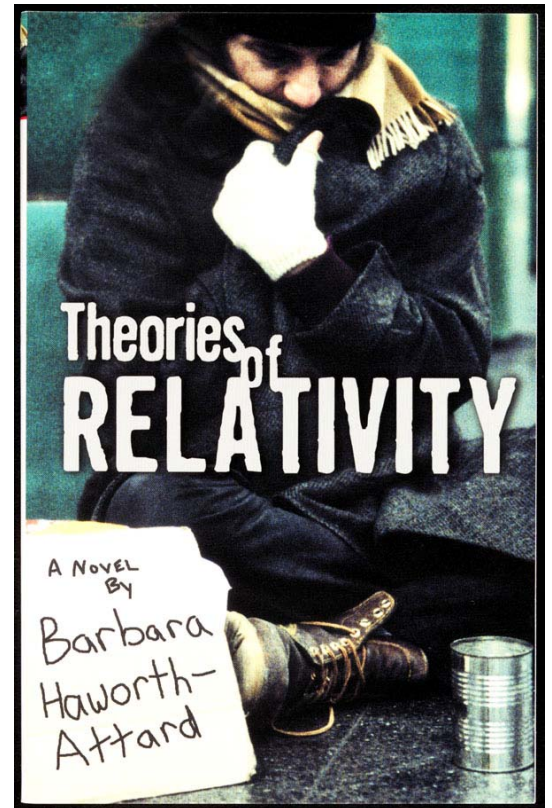
In North America’s wealthiest cities, many children go to sleep hungry, live in poverty, or are the victims of family violence and abuse, and many children run away from, or are thrown out of desperate home situations to live on the streets where they soon find themselves in dire straits.

Filthy and hungry, they turn to drugs to dull their pain; prostitution and theft to earn money to eat. Pimps and drug dealers take advantage of these vulnerable children. It is a day to day struggle to live. Many of the children are illiterate; as the “regular” school system is unable to deal with them, so they drop out. Without education, a fixed address, or clean clothes, they are unemployable.

This novel will challenge the whole way that we view our own lives, our challenges, and the issue of youth homelessness in our society.

“It is important that you, the young adult reading this book today, be aware of that kid on the corner of a city street with an outstretched hand. You will grow up to help run this country and will inherit the problem of street kids. We must all work toward a solution.”

– Barbara Howrth-Attard



Novel Assignments:

For this novel study, we are “chunking” the novel into sections, called Chapter Sets. Each Chapter Set will consist of 4 chapters, and will have questions which relate to the chapter for the week, and larger reflective assignments to accompany them.

You will be keeping them in a digital file folder (), which will also be the place where they will be marked from. When you have finished a Chapter Set, you will email Mr. Powell to tell him that they can be marked.

Other than that, be sure to check, re-check, and check again, the Assignment Checklist. As you will see, there is a lot to this unit.

Theories of Relativity

Record of Assignments

Date:	Assignment:	Assignment Due Date	Possible Grade	My Grade
	Title Page		16	
	Chapter Set #1 (Ch. 1-4)		30	
	Chapter Set #2 (Ch. 5-8)		30	
	Chapter Set #3 (Ch. 9-12)		30	
	Chapter Set #4 (Ch. 13-16)		30	
	Chapter Set #5 (Ch. 17-20)		30	
	Chapter Set #6 (Ch. 21-24)		30	
	Chapter Set #7 (Ch. 25-28)		30	
	"Dylan's Theories" Theories List		24 <small>(that's not the #)</small>	
	"Dylan's Theories" Final Response		48	
	<i>Summative Assignment</i>		TBA	
	<i>Mystery Assignment #1</i>		TBA	

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Comments (by teacher):



Title Page Creation



Using any computer program that you want (that you already know how to use), you are going to create a title page for your novel journal.



Your journal title page (which will be the first page in your novel journal) **MUST INCLUDE:**

- Title of the novel
- Author
- Picture of the cover of the novel
- 3 pictures that relate to the theme of the story (that you think fit!)
- Your name
- Class name & block (English 9, Block B/C)

Printing out the pictures on a black-and-white printer means that you are going to have to choose pictures that are not too dark (or change them into greyscale).

This is the very first page (first impression) of your novel journal. Make sure it's attention-grabbing.

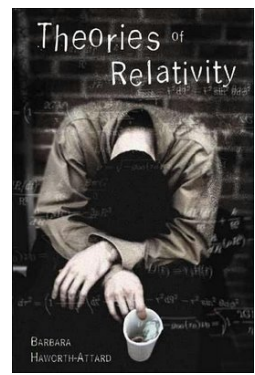
BE CREATIVE!!

That means NOT boring.



****The rubric for the title page is attached****

Theories of Relativity: Dylan's Theories



Part A: Dylan's Theories – The List

As you begin reading keep track of all of Dylan's theories. Write each one in a list on a piece of paper. There are..... Nope, not going to tell you how many there are!!

For example, in Chapter 1 Dylan lists two theories:

Dylan's Theories of Relativity	
Chapter 1	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every fourth person will give him money (p. 1).2. No one gives something for nothing (p.2).
Chapter 2.	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The best way to communicate is with a shrug (p. 8).2.

DO NOT wait until you have finished the novel to go back and create the list of theories. There have been students in the past who have done this, and it is a HUGE task to accomplish (we can call it Herculean)

Part B: Dylan's Theories – The “Essay”

When you have finished reading the novel, write a **final 3-paragraph journal entry** in which you list and discuss Dylan's theories.

- Take a stand and decide which ones *you believe are true* (Paragraph 1) and which ones *you think are not true* (Paragraph 2).
- In each paragraph, **give examples or evidence** that explains why you think of the theories the way you do.
- In Paragraph 3 explain the effect the theories have on Dylan's decisions and life and the effect they would have on your own life and the decisions you would make. How much is Dylan's trouble caused by his theories?

Chapter 1-4 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter One:

1. For the following characters Jenna, Dylan, and Brendan, explain who they are, where they came from in terms of family, and anything else about them which may be relevant.
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Dylan has a theory that, “every fourth person will give me money.” (Haworth-Attard 1) What are the reasons for giving homeless people money and what are the reasons people give for not giving the homeless money?
4. “You should be in school getting an education, so you can get a job.” (Haworth-Attard 3) Explain how you feel about this statement. Do you believe you have to have a good education to get a good job and make lots of money?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

You find out that one of your friends has been kicked out of their house and has no place to live. Your parents won't let your friend stay with you. What do you do? How do you go about helping your friend?

Chapter Two:

- 1) According to Dylan, why is the “shrug” an effective communicating tool?
- 2) What does the expression “frost on the pumpkin” mean?
- 3) What is the local hangout? Why are Dylan and Jenna ok going there?
- 4) What does the line “Vulture watches out for his investment” (p12) suggest?
- 5) On pg 12, Jenna asks Dylan some personal questions, according to the streets is that ok? Provide a direct quote.
- 6) Chapter Two provides background on the Dylan's home life. What do we learn about how Dylan's parents?
- 7) In his youth, where did Dylan feel safe? (p14)

- 8) Who is Pete?
- 9) Why does Dylan's grandfather stop coming around?
- 10) What does Dylan lie to Vulture about? Why did he do this?
- 11) Why does Dylan refuse to go to Vulture's party?

Chapter Three

- 1) How does Dylan feel about the library? Provide a direct quote.
- 2) What is Dylan referring to when he says, "I live in constant fear of losing me." (p20)
- 3) Describe Twitch. Provide three characteristics,
- 4) Who is the "nice guy" Twitch suggests they visit?
- 5) Describe two qualities we see in Dylan on pg. 27.

Chapter Four

- 1) What happens at the "nice guy's" home and why does Dylan feel betrayed?
- 2) Why is Jenna mad at Vulture? How does this make Dylan feel?
- 3) Where are Jenna and Dylan going? How does Dylan describe their adventure?
- 4) Who is Micha? Show proof Dylan cares about him.
- 5) Who is Harley? What happened to him?
- 6) Why does Dylan's mom kick him out? What day is he kicked out?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Straight Talker: You are going to be speaking directly to Dylan and "give him your two cents' worth". If you could stop the action at a particular point, what would you say? If you could give him a piece of your mind, what would you say? If you could give him your opinion on the choices that he is making, what would you say? Treat this Journal Response as a situation where you are face to face with Dylan.

Chapter 5-8 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Five

- 1) Why does Dylan have a “swagger” at the beginning of chapter five?
- 2) Describe Dylan’s encounter with his old teacher, Mr Crowe.
- 3) What more do we learn about Jenna’s family life?
- 4) Where does Dylan spend his bus money? Why? What more do we learn about Dylan through this action?
- 5) What lie does Dylan tell Jordan to keep him in line?

Reflective Response

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Option A (with siblings):

Describe your relationship with your siblings. How do you feel about them? What were you like as little kids together? What kind of things did you do together to have fun? What could you do to make your sibling happy?

Option B (only child):

Describe your feelings about being an only child. Do you wish that you had siblings? Why or why not? How is your life different from those who have siblings? How do you think your life would be different if you had siblings?

Chapter Six

- 1) Why is Dylan excited at the beginning of the chapter?
- 2) Why does Dylan need to use the library bathroom?
- 3) How does Dylan treat Twitch?
- 4) What does Twitch steal for Dylan?
- 5) How does the job interview go? Why is Dylan rejected by the employer? Do you think this is fair?

Chapter Seven

- 1) What personal mementos does Dylan carry with him in his backpack?
- 2) Why does Vulture want Dylan to work for him?
- 3) Why does Dylan hate Vulture so much?
- 4) What seems to have happened between Jenna and Vulture?
- 5) When Dylan is helping Jenna, how does he picture himself?
- 6) Why are the police concerned about Jenna, but not Dylan?
- 7) Why doesn't Dylan want a nickname?

Chapter Eight:

- 1) Describe the youth center. What do they do there?
- 2) Why is Amber so angry with Dylan?
- 3) What shocking news does Dylan learn about Amber?
- 4) Describe Lurch. What does he want with Dylan?
- 5) How does Twitch betray Dylan?

Reflective Response

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Have you ever been betrayed by, or betrayed, someone? What was the situation? How did you feel?

Chapter 9-12 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Nine:

- 1) How is Jenna’s appearance changing?
- 2) Who is Albert Einstein?
- 3) What opportunity is Glen trying to offer Dylan?
- 4) Why do you think Brendan is called “Vulture”? What are the qualities of a vulture?
- 5) What is the situation Dylan is rescued from? How and by whom?

Reflective Response

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Judge: Evaluate an action or a decision by a character or characters. Do you feel a wise or a poor decision has been made? Why? What decision would you prefer to have been made? Why?

Chapter Ten:

- 1) What is a gargoyle? What is their historical and modern day usage?
- 2) What is it like at the Church shelter?
- 3) According to Dylan, who does Mother Nary like?
- 4) Why does Dylan feel comforted and safe in Church?

Chapter Eleven:

- 1) Why is Dylan “living” in the library?
- 2) What are some memories Dylan has of his grandfather?
- 3) What are Amber and Dylan fighting about?

- 4) Do you think it is appropriate to have swearing in the novel? Why or why not? When Dylan swears, why is it different from when Amber swears?
- 5) What personal information is offered about Albert Einstein? Why is Dylan angry with him?
- 6) What effect does the constant statement of the time have on the story/reader?

Chapter Twelve:

- 1) Why doesn't Dylan have any ID?
- 2) Who comes to Dylan's rescue? What does he do to help him?
- 3) Who is the only family Dylan seems to have good memories of?
- 4) Why does Glen tell Dylan he is not litter?
- 5) What is wrong with Twitch?
- 6) What inference can you make about why Jenna is living on the streets?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Straight Talker: You are Glen. You have started a conversation with a friend, who has expressed a lot of concern about helping out Dylan. Basically, your friend does not understand why you are doing it! Tell your friend why you feel like Dylan, and other street kids, need help. You need to be clear and concise about your motives and rationale behind why you are helping Dylan. Include any other opinions that you think will help to clarify to your friend. Treat this Journal Response as a situation where you are face to face with your friend.

Chapter 13-16 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Thirteen:

- 1) Why does Twitch say that Christmas is a good time for street kids?
- 2) Why does Ainsley tell Dylan that he is going to get hurt by both Brendan and Jenna?
- 3) What is Dylan’s greatest fear regarding his home life?
- 4) Why does Dylan resent the Christmas tree and decorations so much?
- 5) Explain how Dylan gets back at his mother for disowning him.
- 6) Why do you think Dylan refuses Dan’s offer to spend Christmas day with them?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Describe your favourite Christmas that you have experienced so far. Where were you? Who was with you? What did you eat? What were the favourite presents you received?

Chapter Fourteen:

- 1) Why does Dylan think his mom never gave him the letter from his grandfather?
- 2) Describe the “squat” that Twitch has found.
- 3) Who are some of the people that Dylan recognizes there?
- 4) What has happened to Amber since Dylan last saw her?
- 5) What does the word “desolation” mean?

Chapter Fifteen:

- 1) As Dylan gets ready to use the computer at the drop-in centre, why do you think that Dylan is having trouble comprehending that Glen and Mr. Crowe, from his old school, are there to help kids?

- 2) What is the first thing that Dylan looks for on the computer? Why would he choose this?
- 3) What memories does he have when he sees the Map?
- 4) Why is Dylan scared to go visit his grandfather?
- 5) What opportunity does Glen offer Dylan?

Chapter Sixteen:

- 1) What is Dylan's reaction to his Christmas present from Glen? Why do you think it affects him so much?
- 2) What is Ainsley studying at the tutor centre?
- 3) What effect has Vulture started to have on Jenna?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Palm Reader/Fortune Teller: What has occurred that in Chapter 16 that you consider foreshadowing? What do you believe will occur in the future? Why?

Chapter 17-20 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Seventeen:

- 1) Who does Dylan go to visit just before Christmas?
- 2) How does Dylan’s mom react to his visit? List some of the mean things she says or does while he is there.
- 3) What are some of the lies Dylan’s mom has told Dan?
- 4) What was Dylan’s mom’s upbringing like?
- 5) What disappointment does Dylan have at the bus station?

Chapter Eighteen:

- 1) What happened one Christmas when Dylan decided to cook the turkey himself?
- 2) What does Dylan learn about Glen?
- 3) What has happened to Dylan’s grandfather?
- 4) What reason does Miriam suggest that Dylan’s grandfather has for still being alive?
- 5) How do Dylan’s memories of his grandfather’s appearance conflict with his present state?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Think about a member of your family (immediate or extended) that has meant a lot to you. How has this person made an impact on your life? How would you like them to know about how you feel?

Chapter Nineteen:

- 1) How does Dylan spend Christmas day?
- 2) What theory does Dylan have in this chapter?

- 3) Why do you think Albert Einstein means so much to Dylan?
- 4) What things at the house spark Dylan's memory?
- 5) Describe the appearance and behaviour of Dylan's father.
- 6) What is Phil's reaction when he is told that Dylan is his son?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

Name one historical figure (living or dead) who you admire. What is it about this person's life, beliefs or theories that appeals to you?

Chapter Twenty:

- 1) What is the condition of the house?
- 2) Why does Dylan's dad ask him for money?
- 3) How does Phil treat his family's home? Give an example.
- 4) Who does Phil blame for Dylan's birth?
- 5) How does the chapter end? Besides the present situation, why do you think a fight breaks out between Dylan and Phil?

Chapter 21-24 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Twenty-One:

- 1) How does Dylan make his getaway?
- 2) Where does the car end up?
- 3) Who picks up Dylan at the side of the road?
- 4) What tender gesture does Dylan share with his grandfather? Why is this significant?
- 5) What does Dylan mean when, at the end of the chapter, he reflects, “This isn’t television”?

Chapter Twenty-Two:

- 1) Why is Ainsley concerned about Amber?
- 2) What has happened to Twitch?
- 3) What is Jenna now doing for money? Why does Dylan react so angrily/violently to finding out Jenna’s situation?
- 4) What terrible occurrence seems to have occurred in Jenna’s history?
- 5) Who attacks Dylan? What do they do to him?
- 6) What does Dylan mean when he states, “They’ve taken my entire life. They’ve taken me”?

Reflective Response:

Reflective and Journal responses should be at 1/3 to 2/3 of a page long:

What personal possessions do you have that mean a great deal to you? Explain why? Could you survive without these possessions? Why or why not?

Chapter Twenty-Three:

- 1) What injuries has Dylan sustained in the attack?

- 2) Who takes care of him?
- 3) Where do they decide to go and how do they get there?
- 4) Why does Vulture really show up at the factory?
- 5) How does Amber 'help' Dylan's pain?
- 6) What does Dylan hallucinate about?
- 7) Why does Amber really think Jenna is giving Dylan drugs?
- 8) What are Amber's, The Swear Lady and the Garbage Man's real names?
- 9) Why did Amber end up living on the streets?
- 10) What promise does Amber make regarding when the baby is born?

Extension Assignment:

Create a chart of everyone who is with Dylan or who comes to see him. For each character, explain how they help or do not help him.

Chapter Twenty-Four:

- 1) How does Dylan look and feel when Jenna does not bring him any more drugs?
- 2) What does Dylan go looking for?
- 3) What family history does Glen share, and why is this significant?
- 4) Where does Dylan go that night?
- 5) What is Jenna now doing for Vulture?
- 6) What is the reason Jenna tells Dylan she ran away from home?

Chapter 25-28 Responses

Answer all of the questions in FULL SENTENCES, and use quotations from the novel to support your views. Quotes must be completed using the proper format (see the “Incorporating Quotes” sheet).

Chapter Twenty-Five

- 1) What does Vulture recommend that Dylan do for the payment he ‘owes’ him?
- 2) What does Dylan find in the second bedroom, and what decision does he make?
- 3) What part did Jenna play in getting Dylan dependent on Vulture?
- 4) Where does Dylan go? How does Dylan’s mother greet him?
- 5) What does Dan do to help Dylan?

Chapter Twenty-Six

- 1) Where else does Dylan look for help?
- 2) What hallucination does Dylan experience while in the washroom? Describe it.
- 3) What is Dylan’s version of the “Theory of Relativity”?
- 4) What is Dylan’s theory about black holes?
- 5) Why does Dylan need to have theories?
- 6) What theory does Einstein share with Dylan about himself?

Chapters Twenty-Seven & Twenty-Eight:

- 1) What do you think is Dylan’s black hole? What makes him sink deeper into the black hole?
- 2) Amber and Dylan discuss how to escape the streets. Amber suggests getting pregnant. Then they wonder how Ainsley did it.
 - a) What personal characteristics does Ainsley have that Jenna does not?
 - b) How did they describe the difference between Ainsley and Jenna and why Jenna will never get out?
 - c) What does Brendan and people like him take from people like Amber?
- 3) What does Amber reply when Dylan asks her, “Does turning tricks get easier over time?”

- 4) What conclusion does Dylan reach about his relationship with others?
- 5) What are the two good choices/decisions that Dylan makes at the end of the novel that make you believe he is ready to change his life?