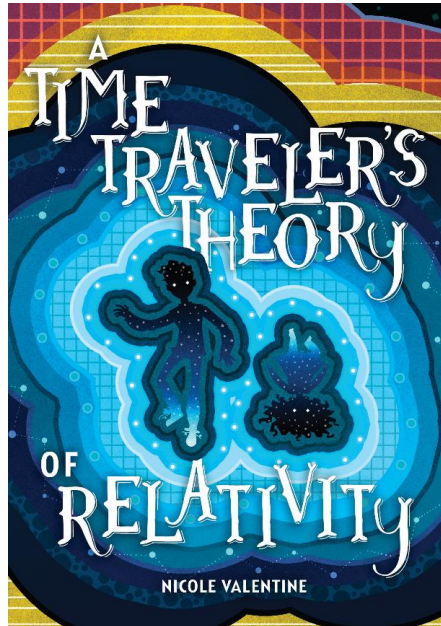


Lerner™



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A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity by Nicole Valentine

Chapter-by-Chapter Educator Guide by Cara Dore

A note from the educational content creator, Cara Dore:

A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity is one of my favorite new books for young readers. Nicole Valentine has provided us with the opportunity to immerse ourselves in an unpredictable and unusual fantasy world, as rich with human struggle as it is with vocabulary and figurative language.

In this educator's guide, I have organized the content to flow chapter-by-chapter. Within each section, I provide a brief summary, challenge words, and "food for thought." Included in the summary are indications of potentially sensitive content for your students (brief violence, challenging family dynamics, etc.). Next to "food for thought," I have indicated whether the question focuses on comprehension, interpretation, or analysis.

I hope that you find this guide useful and that you enjoy reading *A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity* as much as I did!

**All educational content was guided by the Pennsylvania ELA Standards for 4th Grade (<https://www.pdesas.org/Standard/View#>) as well as Lucy Calkins' 4th Grade Units of Study for Narrative Reading (<http://www.unitsofstudy.com/k5reading/>).

Pre-Reading

Take a look at the title of this book, the cover illustrations, and the summary. What genre will this book be? Based on what you know about this genre and about this book specifically, for what patterns will you be looking? Make a prediction about what will happen to the main character, Finn.

(Pg 8): Who do you predict is the mystery narrator? What “inside” knowledge do they seem to have? How does this mystery narrator feel about Finn? Gabi? Him/herself? Travelers? How do you know? As we continue to read, what clues do we discover from the mystery narrator that help us uncover who it is?

List of mystery narrator pages: 8, 26, 29, 56, 116, 207

Chapter 1

(Pages 10-16)

Summary

- We are introduced to Finn, his Dad, and Gran.
- We learn that Finn’s mother disappeared.
- Finn feels insecure for many reasons and is angry at Dad for not trying hard enough to find Mom.
- He arrives at Gran’s house but she will not yet let him inside.
- Potentially sensitive content: absent mother, younger sister who has passed away.

Challenge Words

- Crone - pg 8
- Nemesis - pg 10
- Desolate - pg 10
- Commiseration - pg 10
- Vacillate - pg 11
- Non sequitur - pg 12

Food for Thought - Analysis

(Page 10): “The box was the same black hole it had been for the past three weeks.” Why did the author describe the mailbox in this way? What does this description make you think about? Can you find any other descriptions in Chapter 1 which seem to match?

Additional Resources

Who is Richard Feynman?

Feynman won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1965 for his work with quantum physics. His diagrams of particle physics helped scientists understand “interaction probabilities.” For more information, take a look at: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1965/feynman/facts/>

Who is Carl Sagan?

Sagan worked as an astronomer, very well-known for his work researching and communicating about extraterrestrial life. For more information, take a look at: https://kids.kiddle.co/Carl_Sagan

Chapter 2

(Pages 17-26)

Summary

- Finn goes to find Gabi and catches up with her on the way to the marble quarry.
- Gabi tells Finn about a dream she had where he was in danger back in 3rd Grade.
- Once there, Finn decides he is not brave enough to go in the water.
- Gabi realizes this is where Finn's twin sister, Faith, had drowned when they were 3 years old.
- Sebastian taunts Finn for being too afraid and Gabi and Finn leave.
- Potentially sensitive content: bullies, younger sister who has drowned.

Challenge Words

- Cavernous - pg 17
- Cannibalized - pg 17
- Reverie - pg 17
- Quarry - pg 17
- Paramour - pg 18
- Flatlanders - pg 20
- Alliteration - pg 20
- Skeptic - pg 21
- Flimsy - pg 21
- Inconspicuous - pg 21
- Splayed - pg 22
- Diminishing - pg 22
- Materialized - pg 22
- Adrenaline - pg 22
- Snickered - pg 24
- Affirmation - pg 24

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

(Page 21): "Seeing the big slabs of marble jutting out of the greenish water like giant, crooked grave markers made his stomach lurch." Based on what we know so far about Finn's life, why does he react this way to the quarry? Does this explain anything else we know about Finn from Chapter 1?

Throughout Chapter 2, Finn and Gabi react differently to the quarry. Where do those differences come from? Does Finn tell Gabi the truth about his feelings? Why or why not?

On page 21, Gabi tells Finn that, in third grade, she had had a dream where he was trying to get back home, but couldn't see. In her dream, she sent him a ball of sunlight which helped him find his way. Why do you think the author included this detail? What predictions can you make based on this detail?

(Page 25): “Guys like Sebastian were all the same. Whenever they embarrassed themselves, they would direct the blame elsewhere.” How does the author feel about “guys like Sebastian?” How do you know? Have you ever experienced this reaction— either in yourself or in others?

Additional Resources

Who is Le Guin?

Ursula K. Le Guin is an American author. She has written many science fiction novels, in addition to short stories, and even children’s books. For more information, take a look at: <https://www.ursulaklequin.com/biography>

Chapter 3

(Pages 27-29)

Summary

- Finn arrives back at Gran’s house and ignores her attempts at consoling him.

Challenge Words

- Fantasized - pg 27
- Scoff - pg 27

Food for Thought - Analysis

(Page 28): “The great thing about spending time pondering space is that it’s so big, it makes everything else feel small. It was probably why the other kids in school had no interest in it. There was nothing in their life they needed to make smaller.” Do you agree or disagree with Finn? How does this detail teach us, as readers, about life?

Chapter 4

(Pages 30-37)

Summary

- Finn asks Gran what happened to his mother, however, Gran replies that it must be his dad to tell him.
- Gran shares what it was like to be a young woman in Dorset when she was growing up.
- Finn brings up the concept of parallel universes and the Many Worlds theory, quantum physics, Chaos Theory, Butterfly Effect, Many Interacting Worlds Theory (MIW).
- Gran becomes perplexed and goes to bed.

Challenge Words

- Detached - pg 30
- Professorial - pg 30
- Conjecture - pg 31
- Rite of passage - pg 31
- Impulsive - pg 31
- Pretentious - pg 32
- Bachelor - pg 33
- Adversity - pg 34

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Interpretation

(Pg 30) "Occam's Razor: simpler theories are always the best ones." In what ways does this description add to what we know about Finn as a character?

In Chapter 4, Gran prepares soup for Finn to eat. Beyond just feeding Finn, how does this action indicate something deeper in their relationship?

(Page 36): Why do you predict Gran looks "panicked" when Finn tells her about the Many Interacting Worlds Theory?

Chapter 5

(Pages 38-41)

Summary

- Finn snoops in the basement and finds his mother's belongings.
- Suddenly, Gran appears behind him and grabs his shoulder.

Challenge Words

- Relegated - pg 39
- Sentient being - pg 39

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

What do you think happened to Finn's mother? Use evidence from Chapter 5 to support your predictions.

(Page 40) Finn's family has been storing relics from Finn and Faith's childhood in Gran's basement, "hiding them like an internal injury." What do you think the author means by an "internal injury?" Should people hide internal injuries? Why or why not?

Chapter 6

(Pages 42-50)

Summary

- Gran Minus Five fills Finn in on everything — the women in their family are Travelers, his mother is lost *somewhen* and there is a portal that Finn might be able to use to relocate her.
- Finn is skeptical, but hopeful in spite of himself and his logic.
- Finn discovers his Gran dead in bed, while this other version of Gran tries to stop him from seeing her.
- After Finn leaves the house, Doc Lovell also discovers that she is dead.
- Finn's note in his pocket has changed - now, the note says, "I was wrong. Don't trust anyone."
- Potentially sensitive content: Finn finds his grandmother dead in bed.

Challenge Words

Disconcerting - pg 42
Expediency - pg 42

Dementia - pg 43
Admonish - pg 43
Lucid - pg 44
Brandish - pg 44
Wormholes - pg 44
Obliterated - pg 46
Conspirators - pg 47
Pungent - pg 49
Anguished - pg 49

Food for Thought - Comprehension

What does Gran reveal to Finn? How does Finn react? Do Finn's reactions match what we know about him as a character so far?

Chapter 7

(Pages 51-56)

Summary

- Finn escapes through the woods and almost gets struck by lightning.
- Finn comes to terms with the truth of what Gran told him.
- Finn goes to Gabi's house, tells Gabi everything, and she believes him.
- Potentially sensitive content: grief for grandmother and sister.

Challenge Words

- Punnet squares, mitochondrial DNA, hereditary - pg 51
- Mortality - pg 52
- Hypothesis - pg 52
- Reverberating - pg 52
- Refuge - pg 54
- Delusional - pg 54
- Compunctions - pg 56

Food for Thought - Interpretation and Analysis

(Pg 52): "If there was a tree it was meant for Faith, not him. She was the one. His family had never moved past her death. Now, he was sure it was far more than that. So many times, he'd felt their disappointment when they looked at him. It was obvious now. They were thinking what a shame it was that the one with the talent had died." Do you agree with Finn's assessment? Why or why not?

In Chapter 7, Finn chooses to trust Gabi, despite Gran's warning to not trust anyone. Is Finn trusting logic or intuition in order to make this decision? Does this match with what we know about Finn as a character so far? Why or why not?

In Chapter 7, Finn grapples with seemingly impossible facts. In what ways do we see Finn's character traits change because of this shocking news and in what ways do Finn's character traits remain the same?

Chapter 8

(Pages 57-59)

Summary

- Mrs. Rand finds Gabi and Finn in Gabi's room and she breaks the news that Gran passed away to Finn. He is swallowed by grief.
- Potentially sensitive content: grief.

Challenge Words

- Steeling - pg 57

Food for Thought - Analysis

Throughout Chapter 8, the narrator describes how Finn feels after discovering that his Gran has passed away. Find some examples of figurative language the narrator uses to help the reader understand Finn's reactions. Why do you think the author describes them this way?

Chapter 9

(Pages 61-65)

Summary

- Doc Lovell comes to talk to Finn about Gran at Finn's house, where Mrs. Rand and Gabi are taking care of him.
- Finn can detect anger and distrust in Doc and he does not tell Doc anything.
- Doc has been lying about getting in touch with Finn's Dad.
- Doc threatens to send him to his cousins in Albany.

Challenge Words

- Imperceptible - pg 64

Food for Thought - Analysis

(Pg 61): "Well, with a stroke there can be early warning signs—confusion, changes in behavior, even . . . delusions." The last word hung there between them like a worm on a hook." What does this description make you think of? How does this detail help us to understand the dynamic between Finn and Doc Lovell at this point?

Chapter 10

(Pages 66-72)

Summary

- Finn and Gabi make a plan to sneak out and climb the mountain.
- Finn comments on how both of them are 'remainders' and that they need to be cautious so they do not become 'negatives.'
- Finn discovers a photo of him and Faith as children, dated a year after she died.
- Potentially sensitive content: Gabi calls Doc a "racist."

Challenge Words

- Prime objective - pg 68
- Pristine - pg 69

Food for Thought - Comprehension

(Pg 71): "Finn and Gabi never spoke about what they had in common, but they both knew how important it was to stay safe. You live an extra careful life, never wanting to make your parents relive the pain. Remainders aren't whole numbers, but they are better than negatives. You could never become a negative. Another negative would destroy the whole equation." Why does the author refer to Gabi and Finn as 'remainders?' What does she mean by "a negative?"

In Chapter 10, we learn more about who Gabi is as a person. How are she and Finn similar and different? Think about their life experiences as well as their personality traits.

Chapter 11
(Pages 73-78)

Summary

- Aunt Ev appears at Finn's window and Finn and Gabi go up the mountain with her at 1:00am.
- Ev tells them about ISTA: International Society for Temporal Adherence; she also tells them that only Gran and Finn's mother could travel to the future.
- Ev also explains that when traveling back in time, if you get too close to your "Initial" (the version of you which belongs in that time), then your movement is affected.
- There is a close circle of trusted people in Dorset, including "Doc and his cronies" who know about the Travelers and who do not want Finn to know about all of this yet.

Challenge Words

- Specimen glass - pg 73
- Pretense - pg 73
- Resignation - pg 74
- Devoid - pg 75
- Placate - pg 75

Food for Thought - Interpretation

In Chapter 11, we get to know who Aunt Ev is. Do you think Finn and Gabi should trust her? Why or why not?

Chapter 12
(Pages 79-82)

Summary

- They travel towards the ISTA meeting and arrive at the end of the chapter.
- Aunt Ev gives Finn a grounding stone and explains that the mountain's marble is what she believes gives them the ability to Travel. She says there is no such thing as portals.

Challenge Words

- Summarily - pg 80

- Nicked - pg 81

Food for Thought - Interpretation

(Page 81): "The word *daughter* hit Finn like a slap. He could see it in Aunt Ev's eyes, what he saw in everyone's eyes: Mom, Dad, Gran. The deep sorrow for what ended with Faith, and the disappointment in what was left behind." Do you believe that Finn's family is disappointed that he is the one left behind, instead of Faith? Why or why not? How do Finn's family's reactions and emotions make Finn feel about himself?

In Chapter 12, Aunt Ev gives Finn a 'grounding stone' made of Dorset marble. Keep track of every time the grounding stone appears throughout the book. What do these scenes with the grounding stone all have in common?

Chapter 13

(Pages 83-90)

Summary

- The meeting is a fierce debate over whether or not Finn should know about Traveling.
- Initial Aunt Ev gets the idea to sneak Finn in, which is how Future Ev knew to bring Finn and Gabi.
- Aunt Billie is opposed to telling Finn about Traveling. She also travels back in time in an effort to expose Aunt Ev, Gabi, and Finn's presence at the meeting.
- Finn's exclamation at Aunt Ev and Aunt Billie frightens Billie, enabling them to a narrow escape.

Challenge Words

- Staccato - pg 83
- Placid - pg 83
- Adamantly - pg 84
- Syllabus - pg 86
- Abashed - pg 86
- Cowered - pg 89

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

(Pages 86-90): Why do you think the author chose to tell her readers that one version of a Traveler is "shimmery," while the other one has a "stutter step" and looks like "an old film strip missing slides?" How does this description help us as readers?

(Pg 88): "Finn registered the words and waited for the feeling of emptiness, preparing himself to push it away. Only this time, he felt something else. She was wrong. Deep down inside him there was a truth that was coming to the surface. There had to be something he could do or Mom wouldn't have left him instructions." How does this paragraph mark a change in Finn? What caused this change?

Chapter 14

(Pages 91-97)

Summary

- Gabi and Finn run away from ISTA and decide not to return home before hiking to the portal.
- Gabi asks Finn why he stopped calling her, leading to a more honest conversation about the deaths of both of their siblings.
- Potentially sensitive content: Gabi's brother passing away, her father abandoning them, moving to another town.

Challenge Words

- Semblance - pg 96

Food for Thought - Interpretation

(Page 93): "Finn felt as if he was looking at her, really looking at her, for the first time, as if she were brand-new to his life. Sitting there in the moonlight, she was the same, but somehow different. She was still small and wearing baggy clothes too big for her. She was wearing the same jeans and her favorite gray sweater that her mom had knitted for her. Maybe she didn't always wear it because it was her favorite. Maybe she didn't have much else. Why had he never thought about these things before?" Have you ever looked at someone "brand-new" before? What caused the change for you?

Chapter 15

(Pages 98-105)

Summary

- Finn has a dream in which the way he makes people feel is reflected in stars and energy.
- There is a summary of the facts that Finn (and the reader) know by now.
- Finn and Gabi begin hiking up the mountain, carefully avoiding being seen.
- Gabi and Finn bicker over which route to take, what will happen when they reach the portal, and who should lead the way. Finn asserts himself and they follow his route.

Challenge Words

- Iridescent - pg 98
- Striated - pg 98
- Sidle - pg 99
- Blaze, cairn - pg 101

Food for Thought - Interpretation and Analysis

On page 98, the narrator describes Finn's dream. What is the message in Finn's dream, and do you agree with it? Why does the author choose to represent people's feelings as stars?

(Pg 99): "Gran's house had the audacity to look exactly the same as before." What kinds of emotions are causing Finn to have this reaction? How does Gabi support Finn in this moment?

Chapter 16

(Pages 106-110)

Summary

- While pausing for a moment in the clearing, Finn asks Gabi what she would change in history if she could Travel. They connect over “time traveling” in their minds to connect with lost loved ones.
- Finn compares his theory of Traveling to gambits in chess— the travelers choose one starting move and watch how it plays out for the rest of the “game.”
- Potentially sensitive content: grief.

Challenge Words

- Frond - pg 107
- Rebuttal - pg 107
- Predestined - pg 108

Food for Thought - Interpretation

(Pg 106) In the beginning of Chapter 16, the narrator informs us that Finn, “was done feeling hopeless. He was ready to keep on climbing.” How is this similar or different to his attitude earlier in the book? What has caused this change for Finn?

Chapter 17

(Pages 111-116)

Summary

- They come across a creepy hunter’s cabin. Inside, they find three unopened water bottles and take them.
- Finn sees soot on the ladder as well as what appear to be Traveler stutter-step footprints on the ground.
- The mystery narrator reveals that it was her who left the footsteps and water bottles. She reveals that there is an enemy trying to shape the timeline and control the world.
- Potentially sensitive content: frightening description of the cabin, “serial killer,” “victims hanging from the rafters” of the cabin, a “rotting animal skull...[staring] ahead in perpetual shock.”

Challenge Words

- Cataract-covered- pg 111
- Furtive - pg 112
- Motes - pg 112

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

Who do you believe was the last person to occupy the hunter’s cabin? What evidence do you have to support your prediction?

Why does the author choose to write “Traveling” with a capital ‘T’ throughout the book?

Chapter 18

(Pages 117-123)

Summary

- When Finn and Gabi pause for a moment along the trail, they are spotted by Ray Wells, who is a member of ISTA and is searching for them.
- As they run away, they find a tree with two doorknobs— the portal!
- Gabi and Finn grab ahold at the same time, and Finn is transported roughly through loud light and into the cold. Gabi is not there when he finally lands.

Challenge Words

- Impenetrable - pg 117
- Diverged - pg 119

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

Compare and contrast Gabi and Finn’s perspectives on the possibility of Traveling. How do their personalities cause them to see things differently?

In Chapter 18, Finn and Gabi make their way up Dorset Mountain. They find the portal at the summit of the mountain. Why did the author select this as the setting? How does this setting represent something deeper about the events in this chapter?

Chapter 19

(Pages 124-129)

Summary

- Finn comes out on the other side of the portal and finds his Mom in the winter of 1878.
- She reveals to Finn that there are “nodes” in the Timeline which act as stopping points for Travelers. Closed nodes are difficult to pass.
- Gran sacrificed herself by Traveling over too many closed nodes in order to help Finn find his mother.
- Doc Lovell and his ISTA supporters believe that they should change history for the better, and are going back in time to do so, then closing the nodes behind them.
- “Imprints” are Travelers’ memories of alternate timelines they experienced. Finn’s Mom is the only one to be able to remember the prime Timeline.
- Finn’s twin sister Faith is NOT dead— she is somewhere else in the world also Traveling.

Challenge Words

- Faction - pg 127
- Arbiters- pg 128
- Indelible - pg 128

Food for Thought - Analysis

On page 128, Mom tells Finn, “I do not believe we should be the sole arbiters of what is best for the world.” Think about how this idea might relate to our lives and our history. Should one person or group have control over the course of history? Why or why not?

Chapter 20

(Pages 130-133)

Summary

- Mom tells Finn that the “Others,” who are trying to alter the Timeline, kidnap Faith every single time the Timeline is rebooted. They always raise her to view her family as enemies.
- She needs Finn to go back to the day Faith was taken in this Timeline (at the quarry) and kidnap her before the Others do.

Challenge Words

- Askew - pg 130
- Unbidden - pg 132

Food for Thought - Analysis

(Pg 132): Finn’s mother cautions him: “*Evil* is a finite word. Hearts can change, please remember that.” Do you agree or disagree with her? Use examples from your own life, from another book, or from history to support your opinion.

Chapter 21

(Pages 134-137)

Summary

- Finn resists the task of going back in Time to kidnap Faith.
- His mother reveals that if he does not snatch Faith as a little girl, she will kill both Finn and their mother.
- Finn’s mom gives him the skeleton key ring.

Challenge Words

- Cajole - pg 134
- Totem - pg 135

Food for Thought - Comprehension

What details does the author give us as readers to help us visualize that Finn and his mother are in the year 1878?

At this point in the story, there are many unanswered questions. What are some questions you might ask the author to clarify what is happening?

Chapter 22

(Pages 138-140)

Summary

- Finn Travels through the portal.
- He attempts to focus on his memories of the day at the quarry. Eventually, that thread of Time becomes more pronounced and the journey becomes smoother.

Challenge Words

- Arsenal - pg 138
- Insubstantial - pg 138

- Arteries and capillaries - pg 140

Food for Thought - Analysis

(Pg 138): "He reached into his pocket and felt for his meager arsenal. Gran's note, the grounding stone, and the skeleton key ring." Why does the author describe these items as Finn's "arsenal?" What effect does this word choice have on your understanding of Finn's situation?

Chapter 23

(Pages 141-144)

Summary

- Finn lands in the correct node and spots his Dad, himself, and Faith playing at the quarry.
- While gazing at the scene, Finn realizes that his father studies history so intently because he has to protect their family.
- Finn also realizes that he had always been the one to make Faith laugh.

Challenge Words

- Exile - pg 142
- Conspiratorially - pg 142
- Incongruous - pg 142

Food for Thought - Analysis

Earlier in the book, the narrator tells us that Finn felt like a "heavy planet, too full of gravity" and that other people in his life were orbiting slowly around him. On page 141, Finn Travels towards the day at the quarry and says that he could "feel it like a gravitational pull." What is gravity? Why does the author describe Finn's relationships through gravity?

Chapter 24

(Pages 145-150)

Summary

- Finn approaches his Dad, younger Finn, and Faith. Dad recognizes him, but refuses to give Faith to him.
- Doc and two collaborators arrive and almost steal Faith, except she bites them and manages to run up the quarry trail.
- Faith stumbles and falls into the quarry. Future Finn jumps in after her.
- Potentially sensitive content: drowning.

Challenge Words

- Scrutinizing - pg 145
- Misgivings - pg 145
- Incredulity - pg 146
- Bore - pg 146
- The Pied Piper - pg 146

- Unbidden - pg 147
- Resolute - pg 147

Food for Thought - Interpretation

In Chapter 24, Finn dives headfirst into the quarry after his baby sister, Faith. How is this choice different than earlier in the book when he refuses to jump in with Gabi and Sebastian? What has caused this shift for Finn? What does this shift teach us as readers about life?

Chapter 25

(Pages 151-154)

Summary

- While underwater, Finn realizes that there is no time to Travel from the surface. He uses the skeleton key to Travel while underwater.
- As they are Traveling, Finn's resentment towards Faith getting to spend time with their mother get the best of him. Faith senses this and pulls away from him.
- Finn has no choice but to follow Faith towards the node she chooses.
- Potentially sensitive content: drowning.

Challenge Words

- Buffeted - pg 153

Food for Thought - Comprehension

How does the author describe the Traveling environment? What is similar and different from how she described it the first time he traveled? What do you believe has caused this change?

Chapter 26

(Pages 155-161)

Summary

- They land in a dark, cold forest. Future Faith is there, holding their mother hostage with a blade to her throat.
- Little Faith is terrified, and hovers between Finn and her mother. Finn tells her to go to her mother.
- Future Faith demands the skeleton key and reveals that she hates both of them for abandoning her and for not using their powers to change the course of history. Future Faith taunts her mother because she knows the mother will teach small Faith all the tricks Future Faith does not yet know. She already knows how to close nodes to anyone but herself.
- Finn speaks to little Faith and tells her he loves her and will always love her. This causes a shift in himself and in both Faiths. Future Faith shouts "NO!" in the same gesture he used with Aunt Billie that frightened her.
- Potentially sensitive content: mild violence.

Challenge Words

- Composure - pg 156
- Cloying - pg 158

- Synched - pg 161

Food for Thought

On page 158, older Faith admonishes Finn: "Do you know what you are, brother? You're a footnote... You are nothing but a useless collection of blood and guts. You are the leftover genetic material of *me*." What do you predict will be Finn's reaction to Faith's words? What details about Finn's character up to now inform your prediction?

Chapter 27

(Pages 162-164)

Summary

- Faith casts Finn out of the node, and despite a lot of searing pain in his head, Finn manages to think about Gabi and make his way back in time to the year Mrs. Rand and Gabi first moved in.
- Mrs. Rand and Finn's Mom are close friends now.
- Mom Travels elsewhere with Finn.

Challenge Words

- A coordinate - pg 163

Food for Thought - Comprehension

(Page 162): "With his last remnant of consciousness, he called out to Mom, Dad and then . . . Gabi. . . . He felt a brilliant burst of amber light. The color was gentle, like the sun through a filter of yellow and orange tree leaves on an autumn day. It appeared like an orb in front of him. He reached for it." Where have we seen this vision before? (Page 21.) How does this event change your understanding of Gabi? What predictions can you make for Gabi's character?

On page 163, Mom tells Finn that he arrived in the year Gabi moved into the neighborhood. Where does this place Finn compared to his Initial? Has anything in this time changed as a result of Finn's actions while Traveling?

Chapter 28

(Pages 165-167)

Summary

- While Finn and his Mom Travel together, he tries to tell her everything this past Mom does not yet know. He tells her that Faith is evil and pushed him out of the node.
- Finn realizes that his Dad is actually out there looking for clues about Finn and his mom, not just researching history in a library.

Challenge Words

- Billowing - pg 165

Food for Thought - Comprehension

(Page 165): "Maybe understanding all of this was just like understanding physics—there was a quantum layer no one could yet comprehend, dark matter yet to be explained." Do you think this

sentence foreshadows anything in the future? What do you predict the “dark matter yet to be explained” will be?

Chapter 29

(Pages 168-171)

Summary

- Finn lands with Gabi at the spot he had left her, in Mr. Wells’ grasp. Doc is also there. His mother is not.
- Everything is different because of the Traveling Finn did— Doc said that they need to stop Faith.
- An even older Faith appears and kills Mr. Wells — obliterating him into the Timeline forever. She threatens to kill Gabi if Finn does not divulge how he time traveled.
- Potentially sensitive content: mild violence.

Food for Thought - Comprehension

Earlier in the book, Finn tells Gran about the Butterfly Effect and the Many Interacting Worlds Theory. These theories state that every single event creates a chain reaction of other events and that alternate universes exist and can interact. How do the events from this chapter support or refute this theory?

Chapter 30

(Pages 172-175)

Summary

- Faith demands that Finn reveal how he used the portal to Travel. Finn realizes that his mother must have found a way to lock Faith out of her node.
- This version of Faith starts shimmering, then disappears.
- We hear from the mystery narrator, who claims he or she has changed.
- Potentially sensitive content: mild violence.

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Interpretation

On page 173, Faith disappears into an orb of light. Did Faith know she was disappearing? If not, what was the cause of her disappearance? What do you predict was Finn’s role in this event?

Between Chapter 30 and 31, we hear from the mystery narrator for the first time in several chapters. Who do you believe the narrator is? Do you believe the narrator that he or she has changed? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

Chapter 31

(Pages 176-182)

Summary

- Gabi is unconscious and air-lifted to a hospital.
- While waiting for the helicopter to arrive, Doc explains his motivations for stealing Faith as well as his regret.

- In the current timeline, and as a result of Finn's actions, Doc has been working to stop Faith from becoming evil, along with Aunt Billie and Gran.

Challenge Words

- Guttural - pg 176
- Anguish- pg 176
- Atrocities - pg 177

Food for Thought - Analysis

On page 181, Finn thinks: "Lying did get easier the more you did it. He realized he'd better get used to it. It was going to be a regular part of life now." Is the lying Finn must do justified? Why or why not? How does this relate to our lives?

Chapter 32

(Pages 183-189)

Summary

- Finn and Doc march down the mountain and make it to an ambulance.
- Finn wakes up in the hospital with his Dad. His Dad congratulates him for doing all the right things.
- Dad tells Finn that the portal and the skeleton key were only ruses to help Finn have the courage to Travel and to ensure Faith never learned of Finn's powers.
- Somehow, Finn was the one to close the node with his Mom and young Faith.
- Dad has not found any records of Mom passing away.

Challenge Words

- Constricted - pg 183
- Gurney - pg 184
- Oblivion - pg 185

Food for Thought - Comprehension and Analysis

On page 183, Finn questions, "Was everything now? Maybe that was what Travelers had to live with. Or maybe it was the opposite." Traveling has been very disorienting for Finn, but the author gives her readers clues to help us keep track of which Timeline we are experiencing. What are some of these clues? Look back through previous chapters to add to your response.

How is Finn's relationship with his Dad now compared to the beginning of the book? What has caused this change?

Chapter 33

(Pages 190-195)

Summary

- Aunt Ev pays Finn a visit and shares all the fun Time Travel stories with him that she had to hide during his childhood.

- She still believes Dorset marble is at the heart of Traveling, and Finn does not try to disprove her theory with science.
- Finn appreciates his father's study of history much more now that he knows his Dad is searching for his mother.

Challenge Words

- Conjecture - pg 190

Food for Thought - Interpretation

On page 193, the narrator informs us that Finn has tried several times to Travel since coming back home, all with no success. Why do you think Finn is unable to Travel right now? What might change his ability?

Chapter 34

(Pages 196-200)

Summary

- Gran Travels forward from the night she passes away to see Finn.
- She confirms that his Many Interacting Worlds theory was correct, though she does not yet know how.
- She tells him that the butterfly theory is “hogwash” — time is persistent and the only thing Time listens to is “how people affect people.”
- Gran wants Finn to eventually run ISTA. She tells him Doc and Billie are leaving Dorset and that she loves him. With that, she disappears in a bluish light.

Challenge Words

- Disillusionment - pg 200

Food for Thought - Analysis

On page 200, Gran disappears into a blue light. Earlier in the book, Faith disappears in white light. What is the significance of this difference in color? What might the author be trying to tell us?

(Pg 198): “Here’s the key, here’s the only thing Time listens to, Finn. What matters is how people affect people.” ... “If you want to change time, you must change hearts.” How does this message connect to your own life, another book you have read, or history?

Chapter 35

(Pages 201-207)

Summary

- Gabi and Finn finally are catching up. He divulges that it was her who guided him to the right node after Faith cast him out.
- As Finn expresses his belief in a benevolent Faith and his commitment to protecting her, the Dorset marble pathway underneath their feet moves like foam.

- An elderly Faith telepathically communicates to Finn from several yards away. She warns Finn to steer clear of earlier versions of Faith. She also tells him that he is the first boy Traveler in the world and that the future is in his hands.
- The mystery narrator is Faith. She confesses her shame in realizing how wickedly she acted in the face of Finn's unconditional love. It is Finn's love which convinced her to right her wrongs.

Challenge Words

- Perturbed - pg 201
- Redemption - pg 207

Food for Thought - Comprehension

(Page 202): "You were the difference this time. I think the reason I'm even here is because you were with me. You found the tree, you brought me home. I owe you." Do you agree with Finn that Gabi is the one who helped everything work out for the better? What role do you predict Gabi will have in winning back Faith?

(Page 205): "I have to go back to my own world. It's up to you now. You are the first boy Traveler—but more importantly, you are Finn. And that on its own is enough. I couldn't have asked for a better brother." How is Faith's interaction with her brother different from earlier in the book when she calls him a "footnote?" What do you believe has caused this change in her?

Author's Note

(Page 209)

On page 209, the author writes to us: "And while you may never have as much time as Faith did, there is always enough time to look again." What do you think the author wants us to do with this information? Do you agree with her? If so, how might you employ this advice in your own life?

Post-Reading - What does it mean to be a Traveler?

Create a list of the challenges involved in Traveling—think physical as well as personal. How did the Travelers we met throughout the book confront those challenges? What actions helped them succeed? What actions hindered their success?

What responsibilities come with Traveling? What sacrifices come with Traveling?

Would you consider the ability to Travel a gift? Why or why not?

What do you think makes somebody a *good* Traveler?