

*Looking for Alaska*

John Green

Fiction

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*Looking for Alaska* Review

Following in his father's footsteps, Miles Halter takes the courageous decision to apply to Culver Creek boarding school. Little did he know that at this small school in Alabama, his life would be changed forever.

Miles is extremely passionate and charismatic. The first time he laid eyes on Alaska Young-in a peach tank top and dark jeans-he knew he was in love with her. He needed her. He wanted her. He yearned for her. However, seeing as though she had a boyfriend and was the most beautiful girl in the entire school, he knew the chance of them being together was low.

Throughout the book, one important idea seemed to be leading Miles through. He knew that everything we have would be all gone one day, so we must cherish it while it is still here. This is a very important idea not only in the book but also in my life. I make sure I am always very appreciative of what I receive and that if I ever lose something, I must realize what good came out of losing that something. John Green truly inspires his readers to do exactly that. Miles learns that instead of grieving over what has been lost, he must remember the good times in the past, which will bring him happiness in the future.

Miles has a crystal clear love for Alaska. In one chapter, he finds himself postponing an important school event calling out for her: "We can't start without Alaska!" (139). This line proves his love for her as he calls out for her and hopes for her arrival. His passion is proved; even though he has a feeling, he continues to cry out for her.

I found myself distraught in the beginning of the novel because I had been waiting and waiting for Miles and Alaska to be together. I found myself thinking, "Get to the point," and "I've been waiting long enough." When the time did come, it was only whipped away by a tragic event, but I would not dare to spoil the ending!

Change as well is an important idea throughout the book. One humorous example is when Miles first arrived, having never smoked a cigarette in his life. He gets offered one by his roommate Coronel and says, "I inhaled. Coughed. Wheezed. Gaspd for breath. Coughed again. Considered vomiting." (16). This statement is ironic because by the end of the novel Miles was a proper smoker. This is a funny example of change, but we also see that Miles' opinions on different things such as effort, education, and family all change. He must work his hardest to win Alaska's heart. Miles begins to recognize the importance of learning to succeed. Most importantly, for the first time in his life he discovers the true importance of family. All of these all pertain to the idea he was changing, maturing, and becoming aware.

John Green is most definitely my favorite author. He has written other novels, such as *The Fault in Our Stars*, *An Abundance of Katherine's*, and *Paper Towns*. He is a New York Times best selling author and has won multiple awards for his books. Green's works are inspired from his own life; such as Culver Creek was a form of the boarding school that he used to attend. The majorities of his novels prove the importance of life and how you must hold on tight to the good and never let it go. This idea is clear throughout all of his books.

The name, *Looking for Alaska* will not be clear to the reader until the second part of the book, however it definitely foreshadows a major event. Alaska is the name of one of the main characters in this novel. Miles and his friend Colonel are looking for something that pertains to her, and must go on a quest to find this "something". This story arranged chronologically around a specific event and is divided into to parts-Before and After.

I recommend this book to anyone who is willing read a love story and shed a few tears while doing that. This book is written more for the female population, however certain boys will enjoy this too. It is mostly about discovering more about yourself, so you will be delighted to read this book if you are into that sort of thing.

This book can relate to us all. Friendship, family, love, and death- the four most important things through our lives. These four ideas suck the reader in to a world where they can feel as if they are there along with Miles, Colonel, and Alaska. Personally, I have taken these ideas with me and will carry them with me for the rest of my life.