

The Fault in Our Stars

Author- John Green

Publisher- Penguin Group

Genre- Fiction

Copyright- 2012

Number of Pages- 314

Melissa

Do You Rely on the Stars?

At the end of the novel, *The Fault in Our Stars*, author John Green explains in a question and answer session the significance of the title and how it has been “decontextualized over and over and used universally as a way of saying that the fault is not in the stars (i.e., fate/luck/whatever) but in individual people” and how certain people can choose events that lead to an unfortunate ending, but others cannot and just happen to be one of those unlucky people, such as main characters Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters.

Hazel, a 16-year-old girl was diagnosed with terminal thyroid cancer with tumors in her lungs at just age 13. After attending Cancer Support Group for years and finally getting tired of it, a new member to the group appears, sitting next to her friend Isaac. After Hazel and the mystery guy spend the whole session staring each other down, he finally catches up to her just as she’s leaving. After minutes of conversation, she finally agrees to go home with him and their relationship blossoms from there.

Augustus Waters has osteosarcoma cancer, along with a prosthetic leg. The two of them go through many adventures both cancerous and noncancerous. After Hazel and Augustus meet, he really shows her how to make the most of the life she was given and the few perks of having cancer. She never looks at anything the same again.

Author John Green got his inspiration for the book by working at a children's hospital, where the children suffer from life-threatening illnesses. He based Hazel Grace on a young girl who influenced him, Esther Grace Early. Green is currently living in Indianapolis, Indiana with his family, which also happens to be the setting of the novel. Along with his brother Hank, Green is known for his YouTube vlog, The Vlogbrothers, launched in January 2007. "Really, it's not about anything in particular. Whether we're talking about our lives, making each other laugh, or trying to get something more important across, people seem to enjoy it," the brothers say in an interview. The YouTube channel currently has 1.6 million subscribers and 387 million viewers.

Along with the plot line, I think that one of the strengths in *The Fault in Our Stars* is the dialogue between the characters. Hazel and Augustus are helping their friend Isaac, who has eye cancer, get over a break-up by egging his ex-girlfriend's car, "See Isaac, if you just take –we're coming to the curb now-the feeling of legitimacy away from them, if you turn it around so they feel like *they* are committing a crime by watching-a few more steps- their cars get egged, they'll be confused and scared and worried and they'll just return to their-you'll find the door handle

directly in front of you- quietly desperate lives.” This is strength because as Augustus is talking to Isaac, he’s trying to direct him in the direction of the car at the same without hesitating on what he is saying. Even though the plot was amazing, I felt that the ending was a little weak. I think that Green needed to include what happened to the rest of the characters. In a way, the way I feel about the ending is kind of ironic because in the novel, Hazel and Augustus want to learn more about the ending to their favorite book, “And okay, fair enough, but there is this unwritten contract between author and reader and I think not ending your book kind of violates that contract,” Hazel shows Augustus a book that ends mid-sentence and they keep explaining how they need to know how the book ends and what happens to the characters. This helped me come to the conclusion that Green may have purposely ended the book similarly to the book that Hazel and Augustus had become obsessed over.

Besides this one weakness, I strongly recommend *The Fault in Our Stars* for all Blind Brook High School students because, in some way, everyone can relate to the plot and characters. When you hear people say, “It’s not just some cancer book,” they are right. This book is that and so much more. At first I was skeptical about reading it, but the more I heard about it and the more people kept telling me I had to read it, I knew I had to. It can bring anyone to tears but also put a smile on one’s face