

Book: *The Fault In Our Stars*

Word Count: 719

Author: John Green

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Not Just Some Cancer Book

My thoughts are stars I cannot fathom into constellations – Augustus Waters

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green is a one of a kind. It's an adventure with touches of sadness and humor. It has that ability to make you laugh and cry in the same sentence, and when a book can do that, it's special. The main character, Hazel Grace Lancaster, lived a normal healthy life but at the mere age of 13 she was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. It's a miracle she's still breathing, thanks to the experimental drug Phalanxifor. Her parents force her to attend a cancer support group at her church because they think she's depressed, while, they aren't far off she profusely refuses to go. After various arguments consisting of

“Me: 'I refuse to attend Support Group.'

Mom: 'One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities.'

Me: 'please just let me watch *America's Next Top Model*. It's an activity.'

Mom: 'Television is a passivity.'

Me: 'Ugh, Mom, please.'

Mom: 'Hazel, you're a teenager. You're not a little kid anymore. You need to make friends, get out of the house, and live your life.'” she agrees to go.

This is where she meets and falls in love with handsome ex-basketball player and in remission cancer patient Augustus Waters. As they embark on their immensely difficult journey through life they give each other a forever in a limited amount of time. Hazel’s life becomes completely rewritten. She now has someone who understands her, she is so grateful for him as she says “But, Gus, my love, I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our little infinity. I wouldn't trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I'm grateful.”

Green has a way of creating his characters and their emotions so that the reader can feel and understand each and every conversation as if it were their own. This book is packed with emotion, romance, adventure, and sorrow, this is what drives the book and its plot while giving it a deeper meaning.

There is a special meaning to the title *The Fault In Our Stars*. It comes from a quote in Shakespeare’s famous play *Julius Caesar*, “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings.” This is the author’s way of saying “that the fault is not in the stars (i.e., fate/luck/whatever) but in individual people”. It is a way of expressing that some people have really bad luck or the fact that some people are sicker, and that they’ll die younger. The fault in Hazel’s stars is her own zodiac sign which is Cancer.

John Green is a bestselling author with a number of books such as *An Abundance of Katherine’s*, *Looking for Alaska*, and *Will Grayson Will Grayson*. His writing style is

so unique and precise from the way he names the places, books and the characters that are mentioned in this story, he gives them all deeper meanings. His inspiration for writing *The Fault In Our Stars* came from his work at a children's hospital. He wanted to write a book that empowered young kids with cancer. Through his YouTube channel and conventions he met a sixteen-year-old cancer patient named Esther Grace Earl. John dedicated *The Fault In Our Stars* to Esther and many of the main character Hazel Grace's characteristics came from her.

But, *The Fault In Our Stars* isn't just some cancer book. It's not the story of a girl that is dying but a girl that is finally learning how to live. I would definitely recommend this book because it will make you cherish each and every moment of your life. It's a heartfelt story that leaves you wanting more. It shows you how cancer can bring people closer together. It also shows that cancer doesn't have to ruin a person's possibility to find love. *The Fault In Our Stars* is so relatable because anyone can be diagnosed with cancer, and anyone's life can be touched by it. Even though protagonist Hazel Grace has cancer, she is still your typical teenager. It is emotionally what makes this book so intriguing is its truths about life and that being impacted by something as big as cancer or as small as a cold can make you a stronger person mentally and physically. *The Fault In Our Stars*, doesn't just capture your attention, it captures your heart.