

The Fault in Our Stars
By John Green
The Penguin Group
Fiction
313 pages
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By Sammy

Some Infinities Are Bigger Than Other Infinities

A book filled with crying, laughter, and smiles, *The Fault in Our Stars*, written by John Green, is an intriguing novel that captures your attention instantly. If you're one of those people who doesn't like reading long books, this won't be a problem since the 313 pages went by quickly. It is an easy read in which you can probably relate to, and feel as if you are actually going through what is happening to the characters. This novel is filled with lots of friendships and love through the characters.

Hazel Grace, a teenage girl, has been diagnosed with cancer and has had difficulty with her lungs for awhile. She has trouble breathing so she is always hooked up to an oxygen tank, which she carries around 24/7. Hazel has always isolated herself and would reread her favorite book *An Imperial Affliction*, by Peter Van Houten, over and over again, until her mom finally convinces her to go to her Support Group. Everything changes when she kept making eye contact with this one boy, Augustus (aka Gus) Waters. Gus only has one real leg because he lost the other to cancer, which makes him limp around due to his prosthetic leg. Hazel begins to socialize again and is always hanging out with Augustus and another boy from the Support Group, Isaac. Hazel and Gus both love *An Imperial Affliction* which made them want to meet the author. They use Gus's cancer wish to go and meet Houten in Amsterdam. When they arrive and meet the author, there is a major turning point. Later on, Gus drops unexpected news on Hazel, he had

been keeping from her, which changes their relationship forever.

Love is one of the many remarkable themes in this novel. It is very heart-warming. Through the whole Cancer Support Group, Hazel and Augustus attend; they are always surrounded by people who are going through similar sicknesses. It is nice to know that they are not alone. Between themselves, Hazel and Gus start out as just friends. They are constantly flirting and Gus is the only one who keeps saying he is falling in love. However, by the end of the novel, their love is undeniable. Love is also shown through Hazel's parents. It is heart-breaking knowing that they show tons of affection towards Hazel because they will never know if it will be her last day.

The meaning of the title, *The Fault in Our Stars*, shows how it is not your fault that some bad things can't be avoided. Hazel and Augustus didn't do anything to cause cancer and they now can't avoid it. Even though they know they can't change their health, they don't let that stop them. They keep fighting their cancer battle and neither of them give up. They make decisions despite the fault in their stars. This is very inspirational and we all can learn from their strength.

Many readers may avoid the book because they are always hearing that the majority of the readers cry. However, even though the book does focus on teenagers with cancer, I feel John Green does a great job incorporating humor to lighten the mood of the story. "I'm on a roller coaster that only goes up" is a repeated line said by Augustus which shows how his sickness is not going to get better, but he's not going to give up on anything he does. Green is using the idea of a roller coaster to take a step back from writing so much about the serious illness.

John Green has written many different fiction books for people of all ages. His books have been published in more than a dozen languages and he has created a video blog channel on YouTube that has thousands of viewers and subscribers. He has won many awards such as the

Michael L. Printz Award in 2006 and the Edgar Award in 2009. Some of his other popular books you may recall are *Looking for Alaska* and *An Abundance of Katharines*.

Green uses a lot of dialogue in this novel, which helps move the book along. This enables the readers to connect with the characters easily and feel as if they are talking right in front of them.

However, *The Fault in Our Stars* makes you think deeply into the meanings of some lines by using metaphors which may slow down the flow of the book. One significant line, “You put the killing thing right between your teeth, but you don't give it the power to do its killing” is one example. Since Augustus is constantly fighting his cancer battle, he wanted to show how for once he can stop something from hurting his body. By not lighting the cigarette, Gus never gave it the power to affect him. This is not necessarily a bad thing; it just makes you think a little more as some lines need analysis.

For anyone who likes to read about serious relationships with a sense of humor, *The Fault in Our Stars* is the perfect match! Pretty much everyone will LOVE this book! It is definitely worth the tears!