



By John Green



Author Biography

John Green is a #1 New York Times Bestselling author, whose many books have been turned into award winning or successful productions. Alongside being a pillar author in the Young Adult category, he has a vast, loyal following for his YouTube Crash Courses on history, literature, economics, all the life sciences, government, art history, and more. Green and his brother, Hank, have a large following of “Nerdfighters” whom follow their page “vlogbrothers,” where their aim is to “fight for intellectualism and to decrease the overall worldwide level of suck.” Green attended Kenyon University where he wrote the beginnings of his large collection of Young Adult works.

For more information on Green, follow his [website](#).

Pictures found from: <https://twitter.com/johngreen> and <http://www.sealynews.com/stories/book-review,78395>

Book Description

In *The Fault in Our Stars*, 16 year old Hazel Grace Lancaster has had terminal cancer for most of her life. She fought a few years back from shrinking the tumor; however, she is still fated for an untimely demise. She meets Augustus Waters at a cancer support group, a similarly afflicted teenager, although he is benign when they meet. They share a love of literature and trade books after enjoying each others company for the first time; Hazel trades her favorite book, *An Imperial Affliction* by Peter Van Houten, whose protagonist shares the same fate as Hazel. She appreciates how the book ends in mid-sentence, not allowing the audience to know what happened to any of the characters. As Augustus and Hazel Grace grow closer, Augustus plans a trip through the foundation that grants child cancer patients wishes. Hazel distances herself from Augustus because she knows she will die and doesn't want to make him upset; shortly after this, Hazel has a cancer-related emergency and almost dies in the midst of it. Augustus has been waiting in the hospital with her the entire time. When she is released, they go visit Peter Van Houten in Denmark only to find a mean, bitter man who won't answer any questions. Shortly after this instance, Augustus tells Hazel that while he was waiting for her at the ICU, he got a scan that showed his cancer has returned and worsened. He dies shortly after, and at the funeral, Peter Van Houten shows up and answers Hazel's questions about the protagonist and her relations. Augustus tries to write a sequel for *An Imperial Affliction* for Hazel, which she later realizes doubles as her eulogy. She ends with a reading of the words Augustus wrote, which prove she is happy about Augustus being the one to spent an unfortunately short amount of time with her.

Complexity

Lexile Level: 850L Ages 14-18+

The reading level suggested for this book is 5th grade level. However, this book deals with terminal illness, death, a sex scene, use of profanity, and many other much too inappropriate scenes for a 5th grader. This book would be better fit for high schoolers at the minimum, even though it is quantitatively readable for a 5th grader.

Dale-Chall: 5.7 Grades 5-6

While a 5th or 6th grader could read the text, they could not understand all the intricate and tender subject matter. This book is meant for older audiences; if a 5th or 6th grader was to get their hands on this, it would go right over their heads.

ATOS: 5.5 Upper Grades 9-12

ATOS admitted that the text is easily readable through its lower numerical score; however, didn't fail to mention that upper grades should be the people reading it, due to the novel's delicate and hyper-emotional subject matter.

Quotes

1. "I'm in love with you, and I'm not in the business of denying myself the simplest pleasure of saying true things. I'm in love with you, and I know that love is just a shout into the void, and that oblivion is inevitable, and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when all our labor has been returned to dust, and I know the sun will swallow the only earth we'll ever have, and I am in love with you"(153).
 - a. In this quote, Augustus had just said "I love you" to Hazel for the first time. Hazel is scared to love, because she knows

she's terminal and calls herself a "grenade." This quote exemplifies Augustus' love, which doesn't cease even though she will not be able to give him a long time. Augustus is expressing how little he cares about Hazel's condition; he's in love with her anyway, and he can't deny that, despite the small amount of time she has to offer. Augustus is addressing the overarching theme of oblivion, of loving without bounds even with the immediate possibility of it being revoked.

2. "‘There will come a time,’ I said, ‘when all of us are dead. All of us. There will come a time when there are no human beings remaining to remember that anyone ever existed or that our species ever did anything. There will be no one left to remember Aristotle or Cleopatra, let alone you. Everything that we did and built and wrote and thought and discovered will be forgotten and all of this’-- I gestured encompassingly--‘will have been for naught. Maybe that time is coming soon and maybe it is millions of years away, but even if we survive the collapse of our sun, we will not survive forever. There was a time before organisms experienced consciousness, and there will be time after. And if the inevitability of human oblivion worries you, I encourage you to ignore it. God knows that’s what everyone else does’”(13).

- a. Again, here, the protagonist is dealing with the concept of oblivion. Augustus and Hazel are meeting for the first time at the cancer group, and Hazel is responding to Augustus' fear of oblivion. Hazel has obviously toyed with the idea of

dying quite a bit by this time, seeing as her condition is critical, and is urging Augustus to not be so concerned with legacy and oblivion. This response is reiterating some of the major themes of the novel, again including death, remembrance, oblivion and legacy.

3. “I believe in that line from *An Imperial Affliction*. ‘The risen sun too bright in her losing eyes.’ That’s God, I think, the rising sun, and the light is too bright and her eyes are losing but they aren’t lost. I don’t believe we return to haunt or comfort the living or anything, but I think something becomes of us”(168).
 - a. In this quote, Augustus is learning to resolve his fear of oblivion. He postulates that after one dies, there is some part of us that remains residually on earth, and amongst everyone we love. This part of the novel is setting the reader up for his untimely death; if his fear of oblivion was not resolved, he wouldn’t have been ready to die.

Methods for Teaching The Fault in Our Stars in the Classroom

- In the novel, Hazel Grace is deeply affected by another work of literature. She has many questions about the book, and writes a letter to the author in order to gain more knowledge about the ending and the writing process of it. Have the students choose their personal favorite book and write a letter to the author about the writing process, or any remaining questions they may have about it.
- There are many themes running through *TFIOS*, some include death, grieving, first loves, oblivion, et cetera. Have the student decipher what the most important theme

or message of the novel is. Once they make their decision, split the room up into themes. Have the main themes chosen in each corner of the room, and have the students move throughout each of them to discuss why each theme is important.

- Have the students write a mini-sequel to the book, involving Hazel's life after Augustus' death. How does she process, move forward, stay positive in her condition? Does Van Houten come out with another book after all? Urge students to think creatively about what could happen in another world after the book ends.

Rationale: Why Should You Read This?

- Although the novel touches on subject matter some of us might never have lived through, it is still relatable in many other respects. *TFIOS* touches on love, the fear of oblivion or being forgotten, joyous moments and their long-lasting effect on us, and many more.
- Hazel's fears, while stemming from her terminal illness, are fears that many adolescents start to have. Despite her condition, she is still a teenage girl and shares many similar experiences with young people in different positions as her.
- Despite the heaviness of *TFIOS*, there are many light-hearted, funny, and warming moments sprinkled throughout it. There are many instances of hope, joy and love weaved through the novel, which makes the bitterness of the harder parts easier to chew.