

WOKSAPE

The Fault in Our Stars Worth Reading Twice Promotes a Positive Attitude in the Face of Illness and Difficulty

BY MADISON DANGLER

John Green's forth novel, *The Fault in Our Stars*, is hands-down the best book I have ever read. Actually, this is the first book I ever felt compelled to read twice.

It was by chance that I came upon *The Fault in Our Stars* when I was downloading books to my Kindle.

Apparently, I was not the only one who thought *The Fault in Our Stars* was something special, as this book was voted the #1 fiction book of 2012 by *TIME Magazine*.

This book is filled with both humor and tragedy, and I couldn't help but to have a new perspective on life and how to live it.

The Fault in Our Stars is about a 16 year old girl, Hazel, who has been diagnosed with terminal thyroid cancer.

She is forced to live hooked up to an oxygen tank and take medication which is prolonging her life; however, she is unsure of how long this will be.

Her mother makes her attend a cancer support group and it is at this meeting where she meets seventeen year old Augustus, who had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma and has lost his right leg to this disease.

He, however, is in remission. Their relationship transforms throughout this novel where these characters find support, comfort and love with each other.

Augustus changes Hazel's life and makes her consider things she wouldn't even consider before.

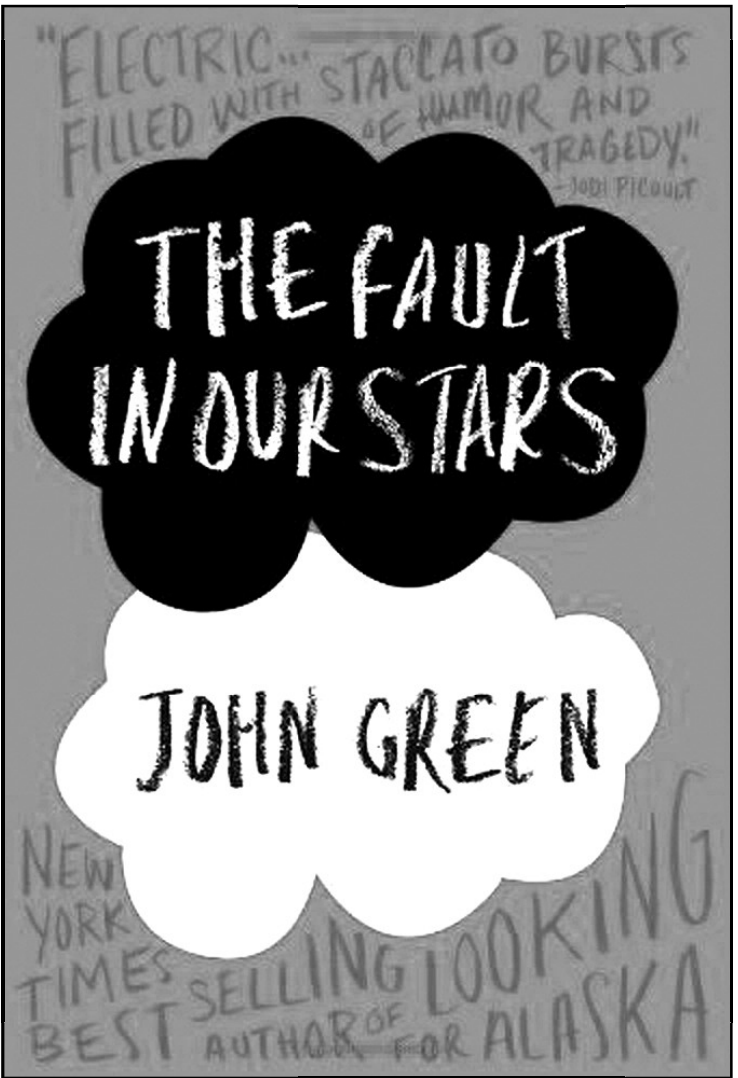
Augustus takes a cigarette out when he is feeling down and just places it in his lips. He does not light it though.

Augustus thinks of it as a metaphor.

He is taking something that is potentially dangerous but not giving it the power to actually kill him.

He is being in control of his life and is not letting something as stupid as lighting the cigarette kill him. He helps her to see the positives of their situations as well as the reality of life.

This book also touched upon Hazel's guilt for knowing she would eventually leave her parents behind after she lost her fight.



STOCK IMAGE

The cover for *The Fault in Our Stars* is shown above. The fourth book in John Greene's series, it deals with cancer and two kids' outlooks on life as they move through their struggles.

Hazel's mother had quit her job when Hazel was first diagnosed with terminal thyroid cancer, so she could be her care giver.

Hazel is afraid that her mother will have nothing to do and look forward to day-by-day, as Hazel is an only child.

As I read this book, I sadly knew Hazel and Augustus' relationship would not be forever, and I wanted to keep reading to find out the fate of the characters.

Augustus wants to be one of those people who is able to make a difference in the world, so that people will remember him long after he is gone.

Hazel, on the other hand, wants to leave as light of a mark on the earth as possible for the fear of hurting others.

The Fault in Our Stars is not a "cancer" book; it is a book that made me think of the possibilities as well as the uncertainties in life, and ultimately made me question my view of life.

Having had a personal experience with cancer of a loved one, I also had a personal connection to the characters and

what they were dealing with.

John Green does a wonderful job helping the reader relate to and feel emotions for the characters as they deal with the ups and downs of life; he makes the characters seem non-fictional.

This book is full of passages that touch readers and make them want to read more.

My favorite quote from this book is one that Augustus says more than once, "I'm on a roller coaster that only goes up."

I think that this passage is both uplifting and inspirational. It is an optimistic way to approach life and the wonders ahead.

Overall, I give this book a 5 out of 5, because of the realistic and touching storyline and the thought-provoking questions that I will always carry with me.

I feel that both teenagers and adults would enjoy this book as most could relate to the characters as well as the messages in the book.

If you are looking for a quick read that will inspire you, this may be the book for you.

Editor's Note

The innocent lives of 26 people were taken just a month ago. To think that the slaying of these children and teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School who were just trying to give their kids the best education possible could turn into a national debate is a shame. To keep gun sales the way they are or to put a strict control on the purchase of guns? That's a question every American citizen should be asking themselves.

I see both sides (like many things) to this debate. Is it right to punish the innocent hunters in South Dakota for going out and having some bonding time with family or friends? No. Is it right to let this mass killing breeze by and wait for the next shooting to happen? No.

I believe taking away the right to bare arms is something that would make the United States of America, not America. But, do hunters really need a semi-automatic machine gun with a banana clip to hunt wild game? I do not see the logic in that. I also feel that hunting is a very important way of life in the area in which we live. Also, being able to protect yourself with a pistol could potentially save your life.

President Obama is doing his job trying to protect the citizens of this great nation. For him not to act on such a tragedy would be unbelievable. President Obama and Vice President Biden are both doing their best in the mist of a discussion over what to do in response. Obama or "Big Brother" will not go door-to-door asking for all guns to be turned to the government. So, I feel the complaining about Obama needs to come to an abrupt halt.

In the end, I would hope to see both sides come to a conclusion on this crucial issue. Automatic guns should have a higher price tag and be taxed at a higher rate. If you chose to purchase one, an intense background check should be in place to insure the safety of civilians. Your standard hunting guns should stay the same price and be used in the fields of South Dakota. In the end, any decision will not make everyone happy.

Nick J. Robinson

WANTED!

The *Woksape* is searching for a comic artist as Tommy Kellen has retired. If interested in filling this position, please see *Woksape* adviser, Mrs. Mandel, with a sample of your artwork by Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 4 p.m.

Comic artist responsibilities include the following:

★ Attend regular news meetings during SRP every third Wednesday.

★ Generate at least four frames of comic art and storylines for tri-weekly publication

★ Meet deadlines which fall on Tuesday morning during production week.

★ Understand all artwork and storylines are subject to review and approval before publication.

The next *Woksape* meeting is slated for Jan. 30 at which point a new comic artist will be announced.

Student Council Addresses Anonymous Inquiry Concerning the Remembrance Tree Ceremony

On Nov. 15, the following correspondence was received concerning the Yankton High School Student Council Remembrance Tree Ceremony:

Dear Mr. Kindle:

I understand that the YHS Student Council will once again be sponsoring a Remembrance Tree this coming week. I would like to thank the Student Council for their efforts, especially during the holiday season, to keep in mind those loved ones that we have lost.

Acknowledging our lost family and friends lends a significant amount of comfort to those affected by their passing. However, I feel that the efforts of the Student Council are cheapened by having to pay something in order to have a special person recognized on the Remembrance Tree.

As you know, Christmas time not only places a tremendous financial burden on many but also weighs down families of deceased members with a significant amount of emotional stress. Regardless of the nominal amount involved it just looks like another "money grab". Even though it's probably not the intent of the Student Council, appealing to an emotionally fragile family to pay for a remembrance is shameless.

In closing, I'd like to appeal to your sense of compassion and concern for families and friends of loved ones who have passed away and suspend the obligation to pay for a special remembrance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Student Council Adviser, Miss Becky Tasa, wishes to express the following letter on behalf of the Yankton High School Student Council:

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your letter. It was never my intention or the intention of the Student Council to place undue burden on families during the Holiday season. The intention of the Remembrance Tree and Ceremony is to remember loved ones.

After reading your letter, I reviewed the Remembrance Tree project and found where it may "look like another money grab" through our promotion of the project. We asked people to "purchase an ornament." Next year, we will ask for a donation and make sure we indicate which charity the money is going toward along with welcoming everyone to the ceremony.

The Remembrance Tree and Ceremony has been a part of Student Council for ten years. In the past, the council has donated all the money to a local charity, but this year, the students chose to donate the \$300 to the American Red Cross Sandy Relief Fund.

I would like to conclude by saying the students of Yankton High School are very generous and caring students, and I'm proud to be the Student Council Advisor and their librarian.

Sincerely,

Miss Becky Tasa
Yankton High School Student Council Adviser

Cellar Door



Submission Deadline:

Thurs., Feb. 14.

Deadline applies to both cover art and other art or writing submissions.

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