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**Struggling With Mortality As a theme in Young  
Adult Literature  
In John Green's  
*The Fault in Our Stars (2012)***

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fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Anglo-  
Saxon literature & civilization

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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work with love and affection to my parents and my lovely sister.

My appericiation is also adressed to my faithfull friends.



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## Abstract

Literature is regarded as a way of understanding, and is a way of presuming characters that are fairly close to reality. It is particularly important for young adult readers who are on their way of constructing their own personal identities. Consequently, there has been an amount of increasing interest in this type of young adult literature. Though it is quite new, it has become exceptionally worldwide spread as it is demonstrated by the popularity of quite interesting in various literary works. This dissertation is about the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* published in January, 2012 by John Green which is classified as young adult book. Equally important, it is about offering a helping hand to its readers through its dark themes as death, grief, and loss in order to influence their attitudes, values, and behaviors, and often they are more likely to respond to situations emotionally, and they are less likely to consider consequences through rational forethought. In other words, it aims to explore the extent to which young adult books may be an effective therapy

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# **General Introduction**

## General Introduction

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Young adult literature is addressed to teen age audience. The vast majority of such books portray a teenager as a protagonist, rather than a child or an adult, and he is presented as a young person dealing with problems that all young people may face like relationships, drugs.., or issues that he is afraid to face for example to be alone, death of a friend.

Adult readers select books with difficulty, due to several aspects among these aspects the reason and the purpose of reading. For example, the efferent reading; if they read in order to gain information. Or, the aesthetic reading; if they for pleasure, to escape the confines of their own lives, and to better understand their world, gender, and age. Furthermore, teenagers may read a novel because of its plots, themes, style or for any other aspect. Generally speaking, the majority of young adult books have conflicts that centers on people, person against person and person against self.

*The Fault in Our Stars* is one of the most famous novels written by John Green and published in January, 2012. He served as a Chaplain in Children's hospital. Mainly, his work enables him to understand, to listen, and to talk with dying children. Green's novel confronts the question of how we do talk about life while remaining fully conscious of death, which we all must eventually face.

Green's main characters Hazel Lancaster Grace and Augustus Waters reveal their painfull truth of their situation. Urgency lead them to reveal about all their feelings in a way is too rare in an ordinary life. In order to investigate in addressing the theme of mortality in young adult books in order to cope with such situation.

The research formulated the following questions:

- 1-How does young adult literature shape and affect its readers?
- 2- How is the struggle with mortality depicted in the novel ?
- 3-Can young adult literature be considered as a healing therapy?

The first contact the researcher had with John Green was reading his novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. As a matter of fact, Green's main characters Hazal Lancaster Grace and Augustus Waters are dealing with terminal cancer with strong belief that fate will not always run its rugged course because there is nothing in the world can stop them from overcoming it.

*The Fault in Our Stars* is more than a love story discovered under tragic circumstances, it is about how to survive, or how to live after someone's death, and how do you feel while you have a few remainning days before you die. Through the

## General Introduction

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relationship of Hazel and Augustus their views toward life, death and the world has changed. Hazel's favorite book which tells the story of a girl named Anna who suffers from an inevitable illness. It leads Hazel to believe that Anna's experience with cancer matches with her own, and she tries to know about the book's ambiguous ending which will be revealed throughout Hazel and Augustus travel to Amsterdam to meet Van Houten the author of *An Imperial Affliction*.

To achieve the objective study, Green's work has been studied and it is employed to analyse mortality theme and how to cope with such situations through reading young adult books as it is portrayed in the selected work.

The research work is divided into two chapters, the first one entitled 'Literature Review' deals with an overview about young adult literature, it deals also with John Green's life and his famous works.

The second chapter is entitled 'Coping With Death Through *The Fault In Our Stars*' which it aims to explore Green's novel mainly its aspects; plot, characters, themes. We will analyse the theme of mortality and its portrayed through the novel according to the main characters and the role of young adult book *An Imperial Affliction* to help the reader to cope with death, grief and loss.

# **Chapter One**

## **Literature**

### **Review**

## **Chapter One: Literature Review**

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Defining Young Adult Literature

1.3 The History of Young Adult Literature

1.4 The Characteristics of Young Adult Literature

1.5. Young Adult Literature Major themes

1.5.1 Coming of Age Theme

1.5.2 The Theme of Identity

1.5.3 Mortality Theme

1.6. John Green as a Young Adult author

1.6.1 His Famous Works

1.7 Conclusion

## 1.1. Introduction

Considerable reading enjoyment for adolescents is provided by a well written young adult literature, it develops their sense of self, allows them to see life from different angles and to explore realities of life and to understand joys and problems of life. Young adult literature has earned a respected place for adolescents between children's and adult literature due to its excellent author's writing high quality of literature. As a matter of fact, young adult literature has a reflection of adolescents changing experiences, as they make the first step to adult territory. It helps them to take responsibility for their own actions. Thus, young adult literature focuses on themes that are quite interesting for young readers, their young protagonists are generally young characters and a common language to young adult (Vogels, 1996).

## 1.2. Defining Young Adult Literature

It's might be difficult to define young adult literature due to the lack of agreement on the exact meaning that should be used to refer to it. As Crocker (2003) states that young adult literature is 'Like an awkward kid who's finally shed the braces and baby fat, young adult literature is coming into its own' (76)

According to Carolyn Smith (2002) *Exploring the history and controversy of young adult literature, New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship's* in which she indicates that there is no quite moment that restrictes going through the adolescents period. Nevertheless, the problematic of the moody adolescence has appeared around the 1960s, concurrently with Rock and Roll that is considered as a medium for teenagers to entertain themselves. The problem with defining young adult literature has not been truly resolved. The most popular definition of young adult literature was claimed by Roxburgh (2005) stated it as to be based on its audience. Michael Cart (2002) says that there is no need for a formal definition of their literature. For Isabelle Holland, she noted : 'I am coming more and more to the conclusion that adolescent literature is what ever any adolescent happens to be reading at any given time'(2). In addition, Michael Cart try to support this argument by indicating, "even to try to define the phrase "young adult literature" can be migraine inducing" (3).

Poe, Samuels and Carter (1995) noted that finding's research on young adult's literature can be difficult because it may be indexes as children's literature, juvenile literature, or sometimes adult literature.

The struggle was even for award committees to define young adult literature. The Young Adults Library Services Association (YALSA), part of the American Library Association (ALA), which gives many awards for young adult literature, inclusively the Michael L. Printz Award and the Margaret A. Edwards Award. The Printz Award is given to the best young adult book (fiction, nonfiction, poetry or anthology), while the Edwards Award is given to an author whose 'book or books have provided young adults with a window through which they can view their world and which will help them to grow and to understand themselves and their role in society according to YALSA (1996).

The standards of defining young adult literature are very different for each award, though both awards are given for young adult literature. On the contrary, the Printz Award is given to a book that has "been designated by its publishers as being either young adults book or one published for the age range that (YALSA) defines 'young adult,' i.e., 12 through 18" (YALSA, 2004). It is for 'quality' or 'literary excellence', the award is given, not for 'popularity' or 'the message' that the book presents. In addition, the variation of criteria is in the individual book and included story, setting, theme, voice, accuracy, style, illustration, characters design. Chelton (2006) points out that many adolescents read nonfiction, including biographies, and turn to magazines for pleasure reading and not just for research. Graphic novels are also an important "literature" for young adults, as are comics and picture books. Sometimes the literature is not even in print format, as adolescents turn to audiobooks and downloads in MP3 format and podcasts.

Young adult literature has become 'electrifying genre for getting today's young adolescents reading and exploring who they are' (Stallworth, 2006, p. 59). It is a genre of writing which is intended to adress individuals who are in the ages of 12 and 18.

Notwithstanding, no matter the age of the reader, this genre appears due to its content. The immense of societal or cultural struggle or challenge characterized the adolescent characters. It is mainly what teenagers looking for in young adults literature. Because of adolescence, the stories told in this genre are relatable to reader's age, a period of transition from childhood to adulthood, and young adulthood are times of extraordinary change and growth for many people.

Strictly speaking, young readers imagine themselves as if they are the main characters and in events depicted in young adult literature. This extraordinary association with material resonates deeply with readers and can regularly spark change in their lives.

The great strength of our children's and YA genres is that we're broad—we publish thousands of books a year, whereas Hollywood makes a few dozen movies aimed at kids and teens. Coe Booth, M. T. Anderson, Stephenie Meyer, Sarah Dessen, and Ellen Hopkins share the shelf. We've got poetry and sci-fi and romance and so-called literary fiction; we've got standalones and series and graphic novels and every subgenre imaginable (John Green, 2014).

### 1.3 The History of Young Adult Literature

Literature has been used for centuries to guide young people's behavior and help mold them into responsible adults. Despite the fact that YAL has evolved over time, the genre still exhibits characteristics of its ancestry. In the middle Ages, books showed young adults how they were supposed to act and what they should emulate (Bushman & Haas, 2006).

Young adult literature's definition is clinging with its history. In 1960s, each of Poe, Samuels and Carter (1995) claims that with the publication of S.E Hinton's *The outsiders* (1967) and Paul Zindel's *The Pigman* (1968) in which young adult literature separated from both children's literature and adult literature after these publications. Hinton was herself a teenager 18 years old when her book was published. It gathered the challenges that young adult were looking for and high emotional stakes with high emotional. After Hinton's book publication most of publishers began to wake up the untapped teenage audience.

Then there is Judy Blume who is a female powerhouse of an author who pushed the boundaries of different controversial topics; of sexual content, racism, menstruation, divorce, and masturbation for adolescents in her novels mainly in her novel *forever* (1975). In libraries, students in Sixth and Seven grades were directed to children's collection, while the new young adult literature was reined to high school or college students (Campbell, 2003a).

Currently, the growing importance of young adults literature began to overtake scholars in 1960s calling for incorporation off young adult literature into schools was when G. Robert Carlson begun writing his book for teenage readers: *A a guide for teachers, and parents* (1967, 1971, 1986). In 1973, the first executive

secretary of the assembly on literature for adolescent Ted Hipple (ALAN); an independent assembly of the NCTE, for individuals interested in young adult literature. In 1980, a seminal textbook for teachers and Librarians on young adult literature written by Kenneth L. Donelson and Alleen Pace Nilsen. Between 1970s and 1990s, the media attracted the adolescence and influenced it (Aronson, 2001).

Teenagers' conflicts and matters were addressed by the Talk shows, cable television and the Internet. In 1980s, the changes of publishers resulted the decline of young adults readership, there was a quite development in producing series of books such *Fear Street* and *Sweet Valley High* (Campbell 2003a; Cart, 2001) also an increased worth concerning on young adult readers in fantasy and science fiction, multicultural novels and poetry (Aronson, 2002). In 1980s, publisher's target was students of Middle School (Cart, 2001)

During 1990s, young adult literature continues to improve, novels in verse were by Mell Glenn and Karen Hesse become popular that their theme based short story collections. The books of young adult literature changed because of the effects of visual elements (Cart, 2001). Cart notes that 'Fresh, original and exciting ways' (P.97) of the words and pictures were presented in novels. The interest in fantasy and science fiction book was inflamed by the appearance of *Harry Potter*. In fact, the traditional line plot style of realistic fiction changed. The reflection of interactivity and connectivity of digital world with shifting perspectives, diverse voices and even multiple genres within a single book began to appear in many books such *Avi's Nothing but the Truth* (1991) and Virginia Walter and Katrina Roeckelein's *Making Up Megaboy* (1998) (Dresang, 1999). The Award for Excellence in young adult literature was won in 1999 by Michael L. Printz, and it changed 'the way young adult literature is regarded and published'. Michael Cart pointed out in Crocker, 2003, p. 77). Actually, young adults literature had its own National award, it were no longer for young adults books to compete for recognition with books for younger readers. 'The constraints on young adult literature vanished' claimed by Aronson (2001).

By 2000, young adult literature and its readers had changed fundamentally, looking back at the first years of young adult literature, the editors at *Booklist* asked authors to identify personal favorites and/or watershed books that were innovative, changed the direction of young adult literature, and challenged notions about the expectations of books for youth (Engberg, 2007).

## 1.4. The Characteristics of Young Adult Literature

Young adult literature is considered as an enjoyment for adolescents, it develops their sense of self, allows them to experience life and its realities, give them feeling many joys, achievements and victories. Young adult literature has creates a significant respect between children's and adult literature that is due to the excellent authors' writings high-quality literature especially for adolescents.

In American society today, young adult's literature seems to be most often defined by others for their specific purposes. Literary critics look at the depth off characters quality of the story for adolescent readers. At the same time parents want to see stories that their children will enjoy but will also teach lessons. Book as young adult literature is a difficult task, yet publishing companies do so all the time. Even though authors have been writing for children for hundreds of years, young adult literature constantly changes based on the needs and values of the current society (Janet Alsup, 2010, p.195).

Through time, young adult literature has been changed, it became matured, more complex characters, subjects and situations wereincorporated by authors (Cart, 2001). The boundaries have been expanded of young adult literature due to the authors' exploration of controversial topics such; cruelty and crime, personal abuse, and racial violence (Dresang, 1999). The changes of perspectives represented in literature which they accompanied with leaving the space for unheard voices of gays, lesbians, the homeless and the people with disabling conditions to join to adolescents in order to pass on their voices through various modes in books.

Aronson (2001) stated that 'as varied as multimedia mix of teenagers' lives, as complex as their stormy emotional landscapes, as profound as their soul-shaping searches for identity, as vital as their nation forming future'. There are several aspects on the problem that it is concerned with selecting books for young adult literature which it is might be something difficult, it has a relation with the reason that goes behind reading, what purpose they are reading for, who choose what they read. They read for having more information and entertainment, they read to abreact from the pressure of their own lives, and to have a better understanding about the world, gender, and age. Young adult book's selection is influenced by the personal reading preferences. Each young adult selects a book, it depends on what he is looking for. Some of them read for the age level, others select books published for

adults, young adults books maybe read for their plots, themes, styles, or other literary characteristics.

The world of young adult literature is broad and offers opportunities for a wide range of reader's (ability and age-wise). But while adults attempt to sort through and label books as young adult literature, the ones who really know the most about why adolescents read what they do are the adolescents themselves (Janet Alsup, 2010, p.195).

Young adult literature has exposed the reflection of the changes of adolescents' experiences, when they first enjoy their lives as teenagers and not being as children anymore. They are becoming responsables for their own lives. Young adults literature reflects what they were going through with conflicts and centres on what really interest young people. Inclusively, young protagonists and young characters and has a common language to young adults (Cambpell, 2003)

Rather being watered down in content or style, it is often sophisticated, artistic and compelling (Christenbury, 1997).

Young adult literature should not have long "introspective passage" from the point of view of adults or trade children (Campbell 2003b, p.503). She adds that 'Point of view must have the limitations of an adolescent perspectives' (p. 503). However, young adult fiction deals with plots that go around topics once concerned only for adults, while still conveying the reality of the situation authors of young adult literature use less graphic details (Campbell, 2003b; Vogels, 1996). Yet, the subject matters of literature and its appeal to young people are not something boring, rather it includes exciting and intriguing plots and characters (Christenbury, 1997) with minimum of description (Cambpell,2003b, p.503). In fact, young adult fiction has a brief plot with a precise period of time around two months or less, also a concern on the present and future in the life of one central character (Vogels, 1996).

Herz and Gallo noted that specific characteristics are based upon the literary elements of characters, plot, point of view, setting, theme, and tone. These characteristics create a picture of a popular novel; the language is typical and managed by teenager readers, the setting can be historical or fictional, or futuristic. Young adult books deal with the characters and their problems, their plots and literaty styles are neither uncomplicated nor simplistic.

With the exception of complicated plotting, all the traditional literary elements typical of classical literature are present in most contemporary novels for young adults—well-rounded characters, flashbacks, foreshadowing, allusions, irony, metaphorical language—though they are used less frequently and at less sophisticated levels to match the experiential levels of readers (Herz & Gallo, p. 11).

The very best YA books can be as appealing to adult readers as they are to teens. Bushman and Haas (2006) claimed that ‘These characteristics show the complexity of YAL and just how difficult it is to define this genre in simple terms. Despite the variety of content and styles it encompasses, YAL does serve a significant purpose: it offers a transition from children’s literature into the world of adult literature. This is the one category of literature that is written for or about young adults’

## 1.5. Major Themes in Young Adult Literature

The main message in the book is regarded as it seems sometimes. Russel notes that: ‘if the plot tells us what happens in a story, the theme tells us why it happens’. Why humans live the way they do is often what is meant by a theme (Lukens, 2007). The theme will remain with the reader this gives me the action of the plot to reach a level of deeper meaning. A theme is more complex and demands more thinking and analysis by the reader. In other words, a theme is more than a single word. Usually, the theme is implicit or implied and it shows the aspect of the novel; the characters, the plot, the setting.... Though an explicit theme is stated by some authors. Generally, a book contains quite different themes in one single story. Sometimes it contains one main theme more important than the others. Overall, young adult book's common themes are presented by author's perspectives concepts such as coming of age, coping with death and dying, illnesses and learning to deal with parents.

### 1.5.1. Coming of Age Theme

As long as are adults growing up, each of them decides where and what destination he goes to from childhood to adulthood, that is the matter why Busher and Hinton (2010) note that it is important to know adolescents of young adult on an

individual basis and to use this knowledge to select appropriate young adult literature. Fox (2010) indicates that : ‘Coming of age novel usually present an issue with which all young adult people engage on their road to adulthood’.

‘Coming of age’ is one of the common themes in young adult literature, ‘to reach full legal adult status’ (Millard, 2007, p.11). This is what is meant by coming in age expression according to Millard. Also he states that ‘the moment of coming of age usually occurs in 12 to 19 years old’. As a matter of fact, teenagers' aim was to reach legal adult status. For example as alcohol, sexual consent, marriage, driving license... Every teenager experiences his development that he went through differently, caused by his surroundings like family, friends. As an example, the novel *Crank* written by Ellen Hopkins in which the author tells a story of a teenager girl named the Georgia whose life is without problems. Moreover, everything is going well, till she went to her father, she went through difficult circumstances in her coming of age, such as becoming a drug consumer or she was rapped. However, the novel deals with a teenager character that faced many conflicts in her life. Especially, the issue of ‘Coming of age’ how is described in the novel. As Busher and Hinton state that adolescent of young adult are those between twelve and twenty years old of age who experience transition from childhood to adulthood. (Karunan, 2006. p.5) points out about this transition which involves biological, psychological and social developments. In addition, Karnan (2006) notes that these developments occur simultanesly at different paces, for each adolescent within each gender being impacted often times, by structral and environmental factors.

### **1.5.2 The Theme of Identity**

The concept of ‘Identity’ and discovering the self are very important for our existence in life. Both childhood and adulthood which are mainly periods that every one goes through his or her life that have an effective contribution to formulate any one’s identity, especially adolescence; is that period of becoming mature and rebellious at the same time. Moreover, young adult literature strongly affects the reader to draw his/her self. According to researches, the brain in the period of adolescence is still concentrated on doing many jobs like learning to recognize. As Gayle Forman says :

In many YA novels, protagonists learn that they can decide who they want to be – which sounds fantastic, until they realize how difficult that decision is. Maybe the character wants to exhibit a

quality they admire, like compassion, physical strength, or honesty, but they find it challenging to do so. Or, maybe they've made poor decisions in the past and now aspire to be a better person. Yet as the protagonists watch adults or other teens coming to terms with their individual identities, they realize how complex and ever-changing one's sense of self can be (Time Magazine, 2015)

The idea of identity can be something undeveloped or ever changing as Janet Alsup says in her book *Young Adult Literature and Adolescent Identity Across Cultures and Classrooms* (2010), that "Identity in narrative terms, does not exist until one's story is told..One's story *is* one's identity...An identity is always "in process." That is, no identity is ever fixed or stable" (48). Alsup suggest that identity is always changing. 'Every discourse that one uses in the development (or emergence) of one's identity will have an indelible impact on the ever-changing nature of one's identity.'

Moreover, according to Weinreich and Saunderson in their book *Analyzing Identity: Cross-cultural, Societal, and Clinical* (2003) that the concept of identity is related with many characteristics. It is important to consider the incorporation of the other into one's identity. Erikson's definition of identity is in the eyes of oneself and for others, and what are the one's expectations for the future. Constructing one's identity is a frequent theme within young adult literature, as many views that the process of formulating a viable sense of identity for culture is conceptualised as an adolescent task.

### 1.5.3 Mortality Theme

Adolescence is marked by opposition, teenagers sometimes refuse to express themselves despite that they have that desire to be heard by others and they are looking for ways to express their grief, reconnect relationships, and overcome separations. To make it easier for them, teenagers should know about normale grief reactions, to understand about death, and how it is important for them to cope through reading young adult books which deal with death as a major theme. As Joan Didion (2005) states that: 'Grief is nothing we expect it to be. It comes in waves, sudden apprehensions that weaken the knees and blind the eyes.'

Indeed, Young adult literature can be regarded as a therapy for their pain. As Jay Asher young adult author told the Guardian Magazine: 'When death is presented

in teen novels, it is often as a way to discuss issues and questions many people have at that age.’

Quite different young adult books differ from classics as ‘*Where the Red Fern Grows*’ moving to modern one like *Tears as a Tiger* that its major characters were trying to cope. As a matter of fact, young adult novels draw a real and emotional vision of death and loss and helping the characters to move on and overcoming the ordeals. As an example, *The Book Thief* novel is written by Markus Zusak that the death narrates himself the story, telling of Liesel Memminger’s story of her, using reading and language as a mean to heal its family loss. Actually, some readers who did not experience ordeals, loss, and grief so it would be useful later on when they find themselves once concerned. And for those who already experienced and lived someone’s death that enables them to express their emotions and healing through reading young adult books.

The obstacles, hardship and traumatic events are not the only depressing themes in young adult fiction. In fact, they are regarded as powerful ones or an inspiration. Often for teenagers who may dealt a little bit with sadness, grief and loss and they have to know how to cope through ordeals. Today for adolescents, young fiction is used to educate and inform them. For instance, in *Before I Die* (2007), the protagonist may face his own death through illness as Tessa or the suicide of a friend like in *Thirteen Reason Why*.

There is a disagreement on the impact of these novels on teenager readers. Some of them believe that they copycat behavior, and others believe that they would help readers to develop their coping skills. The bibliotherapy is considered for its advocators as a useful tool for therapy through reading books. It can help young readers to understand social and emotional problems. The bibliotherapy is when the reader identifies himself with the characters and their situations. Also to engage with the characters emotionally, and with the realization of the characters’ problems, the reader realizes that he can also resolves his own problems and finds out solutions to his challenges.

## 1.6. John Green as a Young Adult author

John Green is an American author; he was born on August 24th, 1977 in Indianapolis, U.S. Then he moved Orlando, Florida. He graduated from Kenyon

College Ohio, with double BA in English religious studies. He is known for the Youtube channel 'Vlogbrothers' in which he and his brother Hank Green share their videos that deal with different subjects. He spent several years in writing reviews for magazines in Chicago and New York. Mainly, Green discusses topics books and their major themes. John Green's presence on social media is so strong and his fame spread away on Facebook, twitter and Tumblr. He is successful in his career as being an author, reviewer and vlogger. He currently lives in Indianapolis with his wife and his two children Henry and Alice.

When he was a child, John and his family moved to Orlando, Florida from Indianapolis where he spent his childhood. For his high school education, he left Orlando to attend Indiana Spring School, a broadening School located near Birmingham, Alabama. After college, John worked as chaplain at Children's Hospital in Chicago, when he first process of becoming an author. Soon after, he decided to work for booklist magazine when he began to craft his first novel *Looking for Alaska*, which was first published in 2005. Later on, he moved from Chicago to New York, before moving back to Indianapolis with his family and living booklist. *The Fault In Our Stars*, *Looking for Alaska*, *Paper Towns*, *Abundance of Katherine's* and *Let's Snow*; are few popular books written by John Green. He has already been so successful even in the beginning of his career. In 2006 and 2007 he won Michael L. Printz award for *Looking for Alaska* and was nominated for *An Abundance of Katherine's*. In 2009, he won the Edgar Allan Poe, best young novel for *Paper Towns*. In 2012, he won the Indian's Author Award, National Author Award. Lastely, in 2013 he won at the Children's Choice book awards, teen book of the year for *The Fault in Our Stars*.

### 1.6.1. His Famous Works

*Looking for Alaska* is considered as John Green's first novel, it was published in 2005. The story is about the major character Miles Halter; a teenager who moves from his hometown Florida to go to a broadening school in Alabama Culver Creek High School. Miles is very intelligent, he tells his parent that he is going to seek a 'Great Perhaps' which are the last words of the poet of François Rabelais that have stucked in his mind, because he could remember people's last words, also he is an awkward and unsocial person.

Then, he meets Chip Martin ‘The colonel’ who is his roommate; he plays a big role in the novel because he provides support and stability for Miles. Pudge meets the Colonel’s other friends Alaska young, Takumi, and Lara Buterskay. He was impressed by Alaska; who is an emotional, clever, wild ,and at the same time mysterious character in the story, she does not feel sympathy toward anybody because she has been through a lot of troubles in her life, she feels blame herself for her mother's death that when she was younger. Takumi is the jokester of the group, he is a Japanese teen, also a mysterious character, he does not play a great role in the story. The last one is Lara who is regarded as a minor character. Throughout the story she is a Russian exchange student who has recently come to this broadening school and Alaska's best friend. Alaska tries to set her and Miles up many times. But it does not last long.

During the story, there is a mixture of romance mystery and adventure in which it is represented on how the characters live this crazy adventurous experience. Pudge and his friends plan pranks and get into mischief together. One drunken evening Miles and Alaska had kisses though both of them are dating someone else but at the same time something happened to Alaska. She gets hysterical when she receives a phone call that their friends try to help her to get out of school. She drives off and later she was found dead. Her friends set out to determine whether Alaska’s death was intentional or accidental. After, they knew that Alaska had forgotten her mother's anniversary death day and to visit her grave in that day when she was on her way but she died in a crash car.

Finally, Pudge write an essay in which he figures that the anniversary death day of Alaska’s mother is what made her worried and rash, he concludes that the labyrinth was a person's suffering and that humans must try to find their way out.

*An Abundances of Katherines* is published in 2006, the novel won the Michael L.Printz Honor book and a finalist for Los Angeles Times books prize. It was also named one of the books of the Year by Booklists, Horn Book and Kirkus. The novel is about a boy named Colin who dated 19 girls named only Katherine and all happened to dump him. He was really depressed because he got dumped by Catherine number 19.

Colin’s best friend Hassan decided to take him on a road trip, they end up in a small town Gutshot, Tennessee. When they were visiting the town, they met Lindsey Lee Wells and her family. Throughout the story, the three main characters’

relationship develop, they become close and good friends. Lindsey's mother gives them a job, her mother runs a local factory producing tampon strings. They were asked to interview all current residents of Gutshot and assemble an oral history. Hassan gets a girlfriend Katrina who is Lindsey's best friend, but Hassan and Colin catch her cheating with Toc. So Hassan breaks up with her and Lindsey too breaks it off with Toc. Eventually, Hollis has been keeping a big secret, she is working a double time to keep the factory open because no one is buying from the tampon strings factory, and everyone has been shocked by the news that really inspires many of her surroundings especially Hassan for the hard work she did. Colin was trying to prove a mathematical theory that would show you how the relationship between two people would turn out. The theorem of underlining Katherine predictability, he works on it every night.

Finally, he solves it when he realizes that his break up with Katherine number 3 in which the novel explores not the other way around. Because he was thinking that his life was based on the fact that he gets dumped. Throughout the story, Colin and Lindsey confess their love to one another. As everything was well going, Colin decides to test his theory again to determine if their relationship will last or not. It turns out that it will last only 4 days.

Lindsey leaves him a note under his door telling him that she cannot be his girlfriend because she loves Hassan, she mentioned that she is joking. Finally, Colin realizes that his predictions were wrong and he can not predict the future.

*Paper Towns* was published in 2008. It was debuted at number 5 on the New York Times bestseller list for children's books, and was awarded the 2009 Edgar Award for best young adults, and the film adaptation was released on July 24th 2015. The novel is about the protagonist Quentin Jakobsen. He is 18 years old, he lives in a suburban Orland, Florida. Called 'Jefferson Park', he is very smart and brave. Quentin would do anything for anyone. Especially for Margo Roth Spiegelman; who is considered as the second main character of this novel and as an antagonist in the story, she is the most popular girl in the school, she is mysterious and adventurous unlike Quetin.

Throughout the novel, Radar and Ben that are Quetin's best friends and Lacey that is Margo's best friend. All helped Quetin to look for Margo when she was missing. One night, Margo decides to take back her revenge and that was before a month of their High School graduation. She plans for vengeance on a group of

people who hurt her during the times of high school, she asks Quetinto help to do her plan. After the plan was accomplished, they return to their homes around dawn.

The next day, Quetin discovers that Margo is gone without any sign of her she could have leave. But he believes that she certainly lefts some clues, he struggles to find out all Margo's clues.

On the day of graduation, Quentin finds out Margo's place where she was hiding. She was in an abandoned building in the fake city; it was created by map markers in New York called, Agloe. But she turned out to be another person not like she used to be 'Paper Girl'. She tries to find a new life for her to figure out who she really wants to be.

*The Fault in Our Stars* is a marvelous realistic fiction published in 2012. The story goes around two hilarious teenagers over coming obstacles with the help of others, figuring out how to accept themselves and what is happening around them.

Despite this being a work or fiction, John Green confronts the unspeakable truths of the universe and his latest literary Triumph! Love, loss and laughter all combined into one emotional rollercoaster... As a synopsis, the book is written from the perspective of Hazel Grace Lancaster. A teenager diagnosed as terminal, due to the forever flowering tumours in her lungs. Her prescription to Phalanxifor has bought her a few years, but Hazel knows she's a grenade. Spurred by this inevitable truth Hazel struggles for seclusion, yet upon meeting Augustus Waters her fate is about to change forever (The Guardian Magazine Review, 2014).

Hazel Grace is an entertaining caring character who has thyroid cancer since she was 13 years old. She loves her parents and does everything for their sake. The only time she gets out of the house is when she goes to attend cancer support classes. Her joining to this group is by her mother's desire in order to attend classes, where she met Augustus Waters who is a charming, clever, and popular character who was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, he lost his leg in order to have a higher survival rate. Hazel and Augustus become friends, and both of their lives are totally turned around as they bolster each other through the most troublesome emotional, and, physical difficulties, the two hit it off right away and agree to read each other's favorite book. Augustus is very fond of Hazel's book *An Imperial Affliction* by Peter Van Houtten which was about a girl suffers of cancer and it ends in the middle of sentence with an open ending. Augustus used his 'Cancer Perk' that is a wish the Genie Foundation grants for cancer patients, he surprises Hazel to go and meet the

author Peter Van Houten in order to find out what happens after the end of *An Imperial Affliction*. But he turns out to be mean, drunk, and, uncooperative person, they left without getting any answer that they were looking for. They confess their love to one another, but Augustus also confesses that his cancer has come back. His days are now truly numbered. His situation gets worse and he died after having a pre-funeral party to hear his eulogies before his death. Later Hazel read Augustus' unfinished enlogy in which he hoped to write by the help of Van Houten. His message was about not being able to get through life without getting hurt by someone and that he is happy with his choices. As Green wisely declares: 'You don't get to choose if you get hurt in this world... but you do have some say in who hurts you.' Truly this is an epic love story that highlights not the fault in ourselves, but *The Fault In Our Stars*.'

### **1.7. Conclusion**

To sum up, young adult literature has come a long way its quest to be respected and accepted since its beginning. The need for such quality of literature that matches the desires and needs of adolescents that are recognized by many advocates of bibliotherapy. Moreover, young adult literature is changing along with its readers and its society. The challenge remains with the identification of the appropriate strategies in order to provide young readers with considerable reading of enjoyment. Next this chapter provided an overview of young adult literature and its characteristics. Last, John Green is well known young adult author for his well written works.

The following chapter entitled 'Coping With Death Through *The Fault in Our Stars*' which explores aspects of John Green's novel, and the struggle with mortality as a major theme to cope with such situations.

**Chapter Two:**

**Coping With**

**Death**

**Through**

*The Fault in*

*Our Stars*

## **Chapter Two: Coping With Death Through The Fault in Our Stars**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 An Overview about the Novel

2.3 The Plot Summary

2.4 The Main Characters

2.5 The Minor Characters

2.6 Coming of Age as a major theme

2.7 Identity as a major theme

2.8 Mortality as a major theme

2.9 Conclusion

# Chapter Two: Coping With Death Through The Fault In Our Stars

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## 2.1 Introduction

*The Fault in Our Stars*' major theme is struggling with mortality, it is about how much its major characters Hazel Lancaster Grace and Augustus Waters react to their terminal illness which their reactions depend on their personalities. Hence, the aim of the second chapter is to examine the characters' beliefs toward cancer, it reveals their thoughts. Especially, for their families, and how much young adult books can be a healing therapy to entertain themselves, and particularly it is helpful for them to cope with death, grief, and loss.

## 2.2 An Overview about the Novel

*The Fault in Our Stars* is regarded as the sixth novel written by John Green. He was inspired when he was working at Children's Hospital. Esther Earl was his female friend who gave him the inspiration. In fact, the book is dedicated for her.

It was published in January, 2012 which was one of the top of the list on Amazon and Nobles and Barnes bestseller lists, before 6th months in June 2011 due to John's fame in social media. After the novel's publication, it reached the first place for seven weeks on the New York Times bestseller list of children's chapter book, it was also on the top of the list or within the top 10 on other bestseller lists, as the Wall Street Journal Time, and the Guardian. In fact, million of copies were sold and quite different copies were translated to many languages around the world. The book of *The Fault in Our Stars* has received many positive critics concerning its humour, its language and perspective. John Green's work was criticized and negatively described by the *Daily Mail Review* as the novel was an exploitation of teenager's illness. Hence, Green answered in interview by claiming that young adult is about condescending. The novel was adapted into a film on June 6th 2014 directed by Josh Boone and Heroine was played by Shailene Woodley, The Hero Augustus was played by Ansel Elgort. The film has achieved a vast success and become widely popular around the world. Actually, it reached the number one at the box office.

*The Fault in Our Stars* title is regarded as a line from William Shakespeare play entitled 'Julius Caesar'. 'The fault, dear Brutus is not in Our Stars but in our selves, for we are underligns.' It signifies that we may blame ourselves not the world's evil- nature. For Green, it is considered as something quite different,

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sometimes it is all about fate, both Hazel and Augustus did not want to have any inevitable illness, it is about teenagers who had no input in.

Throughout *The Fault in Our Stars*' novel in which Green wants to show that despite of the bad fate, there is always hope. John Green's novel is narrated in the first person by Hazel Grace Lancaster. She tries to bring us into her world with her own words, in which she permits the reader to access to her experience with illness.

The story begins with Hazel's class's attendance of support group, then she meets Augustus Waters; a handsome teenager who lost his leg because he had cancer called Osteosarcoma. She falls in love with him immediately. Soon they travel to Amsterdam to meet Van Houten the author of Hazel's favorite book *An Imperial Affliction*, she was wondering about its ending but Augustus' cancer has returned. In fact, they come back disappointed by Van Houten's act toward them. Hazel and Augustus has their first kiss at Anne's Frank House. Eventually, Augustus passes away and he leaves an eulogy for Hazel from which she realizes that hurt she feels after Augustus' death is worth it.

### 2.3 The Plot Summary

Hazel Grace Lancaster is a young girl living with cancer, she is only seventeen years old, and her cancer began as thyroid it spreads to her lungs that makes her to breathe from an oxygen tank properly all day. Hazel's mother is very careful about her little girl. She believes that Hazel is depressed, so she requested her to attend support classes in the basement of a church. One day she went to attend as usual, she meets a handsome boy in attendance, he was there in order to support his friend Isaac, who has lost his eye because he had the tumor in the eye and now must get the other removed as well. In the end of the discussion, Augustus tries to get closer to Hazel by telling her that she looks like now Natalie Portman from *V for Vendetta*. Augustus invites her to go with him to his house to watch a movie together, so they talk about their experience with cancer. Hazel tells him about her cancer which has spread to her lungs and Augustus reveals that his leg is amputated due to a cancer called Osteosarcoma.

Then, she agrees to come over to Augustus' house to meet his parents. They spend good time together, before Hazel's leaving. They agree to read each other's

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favorite book, Hazel's book is about a girl who has cancer named Anna and its story is as Hazel's experience with cancer. Hazel feels that Anna's story matches her own, she tells him that the novel is written by Peter Van Houten which it ends with mid-sentence. She reveals her desire to contact Van Houten in order to know about the fate of the other characters after Anna's death. Equally important, Augustus also recommends the *Price of Dawn*. After a week Hazel finished reading the *Price of Dawn* which seems for her as quite interesting but violent. Hazel visits Augustus, there she meets Isaac, who was dumped by his girlfriend Monica. Eventually, Hazel and Augustus meet for another time but this time they are discussing about *An Imperial Affliction*, he surprised her by contacting Van Houten's assistant 'Lidewij Vliegthart'. It was something unbelievable for her, he shares Van Houten's letter with her, and she begins to prepare a list of questions to ask him about the novel and its ambiguous ending. Most importantly, she hopes to know what happens to Anna's mother, what if Anna's mother survive her daughter's death, so her parents will do the same after Hazel's passes away.

After few days, Hazel gets a reply from Van Houten telling her that he would only answer her doubts in person, his email makes her so sad because she thinks that she can never make it; to go to Amsterdam. After that Hazel was invited by Augustus to go to a picnic. It turns out that he planned for the picnic with Dutch-themed, Augustus declares to Hazel that he intends to use his wish which is gifted to him from 'the Genie Foundation' in order to take her to Amsterdam. She looks kind of hesitant so in deep she realizes that she loves him, and do not want to cause him pain, she is afraid that she will harm their surrounding as she describes herself as a 'Grenade'. While Hazel was thinking about Augustus' offer, unfortunately her lungs are filled with fluid, she gets sick seriously, and she enters to hospital for a couple of days. She knows that Augustus was waiting for her the whole time. Moreover, Hazel becomes determined to go to Amsterdam. After that Augustus shows to her another received letter from Van Houten. But her situation does not allow her to travel abroad. Eventually, her parents are convinced by her Dr. Maria who helped her to make her wish come true.

They fly to Amsterdam with the accompaniment of Mrs. Lancaster, after they get to the hotel they find out that 'Lidewij' Van Houten's assistant has made a reservation for them at a fancy restaurant, while they are having their dinner they

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share their thoughts about death and life. Additionally, Augustus tells her about his ex-girl friend who had brain cancer, he tells her that due to her illness she becomes more violent.

Finally, they go for visiting Van Houten. Actually, they are shocked because they found out that Van Houten is not like they are expecting, he is mean, drunk, and, alcoholic. He tells them that he can not answer the questions that Hazel already wrote to him by telling her ad she is only a cancer survivor. Both Hazel and Augustus are disappointed from Houten's action. His assistant accompanies them out and she is feeling really sorry for what happened. Further, they go to Anne's Frank house. At the end of the tour, Hazel and Augustus kiss to the applause visitors. When they come back to the hotel they make love for the first time and for the last time, they confess that their love to one another. The next day, Augustus admits to Hazel that his cancer has returned when she was at hospital and spread to all his body. Eventually, they return to the United States. Augustus' situation becomes worse and hopeless. He changes from confident, humorous, and charming boy to vulnerable and becomes afraid. But for Hazel he is always that handsom boy. Yet, his situation becomes worse than before, Hazel realizes that Augustus has become a grenade that she is afraid to become alike.

In his last days, he determined to arrange pre-funeral for himself. Hazel and Isaac are in the church where they met for the first time. Both Hazel and Isaac give eulogies to Augustus, In Hazel's eulogy in which she quotes a line from *An Imperial Affliction* that she tells Augustus about how much she loves him and each little infinity she could spend with him makes her honestly grateful.

Augustus passes away after eight days after the pre-funeral, his feneral is held in the same church where they first met. Hazel is astonished to see Van Houten there in the funeral, she reads her eulogy which it begins with quotation she says in chapter 2: Without pain, we couldn't know joy.

After the funeral, Van Houten tries to explain to Hazel that Augustus was in touch with him. And he asked him to come to his funeral and see Hazel. Van Houten attempst to tell her about the fate of Anna's mother but Hazel is quite uninterested. After few days, Issac reveals that Augustus was writing a sequel to *An Imperial Affliction* for Hazel. She finds out that Van Houten is trying to reconcile himself through *An Imperial Affliction*. Eventually, Hazel discovers that Augustus

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mailed Van Houten by sending him the pages in order have well written eulogy for Hazel. Van Houten sends them back to her.

Finally, The novel ends up with Augustus words to Hazel which he reveals that getting hurt is inevitable but we really choose who we let them hurting us and he is happy for all the choices he made, hoping the same for Hazel, who says that she is happy in the last lines of the novel.

### 2.4 The Main Characters

Hazel Lancaster Grace is considered as the novel's narrator and its protagonist. She is Sixteen years old teenager girl, who has been dealing for three years with a type of thyroid cancer that spread to her lungs, she is obliged to breathe from an oxygen tank because of her cancer. Hazel herself opens the book by declaring this fact as she says in chapter 1: Whenever you read a cancer booklet or website or whatever, they always list depression among the side effect. But in fact, depression is not a side effect of cancer. Depression is a side of dying.

She is very real and honest with herself. She knows about her health situation even she is kept to be alive by an experimental drug, she is wondering about the time left for her, and deep thoughts about death and life make her to think about those around her and keep them at distance because of her belief that her death will hurt them.

Throughout the novel, Hazel looks depressed by her mother who says in chapter 1: One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities. As a matter of fact, Hazel and her parents have a good relationship, for them Hazel is just too passive because she spends all day watching TV or reading books.

In fact, she is fighting for her life so hard, this is what her parents do not know, and she tries not to hurt anybody as she says in chapter 2: I'm a grenade, I would like to minimize, okay. Hazel describes herself as a grenade as she talks to her mother, she reveals that she wants to stay away from people so they do not and up bieng hurt. Her mother pleased her to attend support group classes. Then she meets Augustus while they hang out together, she does not want to get close to him, and she does not want to hurt anyone.

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Equally important, Hazel reveals her love to Augustus and finds out that getting hurt is inevitable. But it is worthy for her as she declares in chapter 13: Only now that I love grenade, I didn't want to.

Further, Augustus who helps her to live outside herself as she says in chapter 20: You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I'm grateful, which it proves that Hazel's vision to the world, life, and even death has changed.

Augustus Waters is seventeen years old teenager, who meets Hazel Lancaster while they are attending Support classes for youth with cancer. Augustus lost his leg due to a form of cancer called Osteosarcoma. During their class attendancy, even before words are even spoken, it is obvious that Augustus has Hazel's attention as she says in chapter 9: look, let me just say it: He was hot. A nonhot boy stares at you relentlessly and it is, at best, awkward and, at worst, a form of assault. But a hot boy . . . well.

Augustus falls for Hazel right away especially after her comments about dying in support group. Augustus thinks about fading into oblivion after he dies. On the top of that, while Augustus and Hazel are talking, he puts unlit cigarettes between his teeth, she looks astonished but for him it is as if he can control death through putting unlit cigarettes in his mouth. In fact, after Augustus shows up suddenly in Hazel's life in which he changes her thoughts, as she considered herself as cancer kid. Yet, Augustus' desire is to die with dignity and doing something heroic. They start hanging out together, so Augustus invites Hazel to come over to his house, she tells him about favorite book *An Imperial Affliction* in which she has been writing to its author for years. She tries to know its ambiguous ending because it ends with mid-sentence. Augustus surprised her by contacting Van Houten the novel's author as he tells her about his answer in chapter 5: Dear Mr. Waters, 'he answered'. 'I am writing to thank you for your electronic correspondence.

Once, he receives Houten's reply, he decides to use his wish to take Hazel to Amsterdam even though that his cancer has returned and starts to spread to all his body. Indeed, Augustus has had good effect on other's lives. For example, he helps Hazel in order that she realizes that getting close to anyone does not mean causing hurts for him. As he declares in chapter 25: 'Heroes are the people noticing things, paying attention'.

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It shows Augustus' changing view of what makes him hero and how much Hazel has good impact on these thoughts. Finally, he recognizes that changing people's lives and having positive impact on their lives is really what makes someone a real hero.

### 2.5 The Minor Characters

Issac is Hazel' and Augustus' friend from support group. A form of eye cancer blinds him in which leads him to cynicism and anger, he gets dumped by his girlfriend Monica shortly when he loses his second eye. He becomes devastated as he admits in chapter 4: 'Well, I believe in true love', Issac said. 'And I love her, and she promised. She promised always.' In fact, the break up leads him to great anger and sadness.

Van Peter Houten is the author of *An Imperial Affliction* which is a fictional novel that exists within *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. It is Hazel's favorite book which its story is about a girl with cancer and it ends with midsentence. Hazel and Augustus are curious to know about the fate of the other characters. So, they decided to contact Van Houten who seems mean, rude, and alcoholic person not like Hazel imagined him at all.

They come back with disappointment after meeting him. In the end, he comes to Augustus funeral to apologize to Hazel finds out that Van Houten has lost his daughter due to a Leukemia cancer, so that he becomes addicted to alcohol since she passed away. Moreover, Hazel and Augustus reminded him about painful things that is why he acts out as he says in chapter 12:

Perhaps, but I was under the misguided impression that you were incapable of transatlantic travel. I was trying . . . to provide you some comfort, I suppose, which I should know better than to attempt'. Equally important, Van Houten does not want to accept the fact of their hopeless situation.

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### 2.6 Coming of Age as a major theme

All the traditional elements of coming of age narrative are involved in *The Fault in Our Stars*. It centers on the main character's own experience from their childhood to adulthood. Though, they are suffering with illness, they try to discover the adult period as any teenager do, which both characters are struggling between moving into adulthood or holding their youth. It is like a threat caused by their illness that make them afraid to enjoy their adulthood. So they decided to enjoy this period of time before it is too late. Haze'l and Augustus' diagnoses are related with their passage toward adulthood. For instance, Hazel's illness is discovered after three months of her first period. As she says in chapter 2: I didn't tell him that the diagnosis came three months after I got my first period. Like: Congratulations! You're a woman. Now die.

In the same way for Augustus when he was thinking about basketball, he lost his leg due to cancer. Each of them adulthood is such difficult and complicated they know that their future is not promised. Furthermore, they did not enjoy as an ordinary teenager did alike, make relationships... their cancer obliged them to be careful from an early age. On the whole, their illness was not really an obstacle for their relationship. Mainly, it is quite a challenge for both of them.

Moreover, the characters of *The Fault in Our Stars* are with sick bodies and coming of age, for Hazel she should carry an oxygen tank because she has poor lungs. Augustus also lost his leg. Both of them have a common point which their experiences with cancer. Despite of their coming of age is not typical, they love each other which allow them to realize their sexuality. All the things considered, the main characters experienced maturity from different sides and angles; emotionally, psychologically and mentally. As a matter of fact, their illness leads them into maturity and enables them to recognize life, death and relationships.

Generally speaking, Hazel comes of age and it is shown up on her determination to be strong when she says in chapter 7:

People talk about courage of cancer patients, I do not deny that courage. I had been poked and stabbed and poisoned for years, and still I trod on, but make on mistake: In that moment. I would have been very, very happy to die.

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It represents Hazel's rationality and she would have the courage to die without any regrets.

### 2.7 Identity as a major theme

Identity is very important thing for the novel's narrator Hazel Lancaster Grace. Her self-discovery is helped along by Augustus, *An Imperial Affliction* and especially herself. *The Fault in Our Stars* teenager characters are always aware that they are different from the typical of teenagers. Mainly, their psychological appearances. Particularly, an oxygen tank and prosthetics which are the significations of the difference. However, there are other people who find that their illness is something not comfortable often. For example, when Hazel goes to shopping with her friend Kaitlyn, she says that she would die if she had to walk in pairs of heels, then she looks to Hazel and wants to apologize for what she says as if it is forbidden to talk about death in front of her. But Hazel is conscious about her situation. For instance, a little girl asks her about the oxygen tank that she carries Hazel simply answers the little girl and explains to her why she is obliged to breathe from an oxygen tank.

Furthermore, Augustus asks Hazel as he says in page chapter 7: don't tell me you are one of those people who become their diseases. Actually, Hazel do not define herself by her experience with cancer. In fact, she tries to break those barriers, the depictions in the novel show those living with cancer in ways that limit such inevitable illness which make an argument for people with cancer as just they are typical and living with an illness. For example, when Augustus' cancer has returned, Hazel always looks to him as usual she used to see him; a handsome, charming and humorous boy. There is no difference between him and any other person who is sick.

Hazel's and Augustus' experience with cancer is mainly constructing their own identities, they need to know what is like to be dying. In this way Hazel even though Augustus' illness reemeges, she still appreciates him. This allows Hazel to limit the things that cause their indifferences. And permits how to enjoy normalcy that is not recognized by misunderstanding wich creates separation.

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### 2.8 Mortality as a major theme

*The Fault in Our Stars*' only concern is about teenagers with inevitable illness. The themes of life and death are very important ones in the novel, the author tackles quite different views about life and death according to each character and how each one he views it. Importantly, Hazel's belief toward life and death are not the same for Augustus, she tries to not hurt any of those around her. By contrast, he believes of doing something heroic to be remembered by the others. As a matter of fact, the characters of the novel live with idea of dying on a daily basis, through the relationship of Hazel and Augustus in which it is unflod by the themes of life and death. When Hazel delivers her first words in the support group and it hits Augustus on his biggest fears as she says in chapter 1: There will come a time 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.

Moreover, Hazel describes herself as a grenade that will explode one day, after reading Caroline mother's online profile and noticed how much the death of Caroline effects on the others. She also describes Augustus as grenade if his cancer will return. So, he will die before Hazel. In fact, not causing hurt was the essential concern for her. In other words, she knows the effects of death for her family and for Augustus. Then, she tries to keep distance from them what is the only way to keep them safe from her and she worries that she will cause them harm.

Equally important, the grenade appears in the video games when Augustus was playing with his friend Issac. In the game Augustus throws himself as a hero to save children's school, he achieves heroism he wanted always to do, it is by sacrificing himself and getting hurt by the grenade. To point out again, the signification of the grenade in the context ties simply to the book's major morales. Furthermore, Hazel reads the letter that Augustus sent to Van Houten after his death in which he declares that the people who we hurt actually are the ones who are close to us. He says that people do not have the choice to choose who hurt them. As a matter of fact, the representation of the grenade is about the hurt that we may cause to others, but in some cases this hurt is worth it, that is what Augustus shows in the

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video game. For Hazel the pain that is caused after Augustus' death clearly worth it. And for Augustus heroism in the video game is to get hurt for something valuable.

In addition, her fear of hurting others after death leads her to be obsessed by a fictional novel which is *An Imperial Affliction*. Hazel identifies herself with the book because it tells the story of a girl diagnosed with cancer. John Green uses *An Imperial Affliction* book within the story of *The Fault in Our Stars* as a representation of healing value of fiction. Moreover, Green try to create control over the aspects of *The Fault In Our Stars* book's plot, characters, and, themes, it enables him to benefit from illusions equally to add to the aspects already in his piece of writing.

*An Imperial Affliction's* main character who is a young girl who suffers from cancer which it shows the similar experience to Hazel's own. Furthermore, it provides her with the strong will as if she fights the illness and also it makes a foundation of the novel's other meanings. Especially, its own cancer, her relationship with her parents that she wants them to be fine after her death, by learning what will happen for them, according to Anna's death in the novel of *An Imperial Affliction*.

However, the novel does not completely expand on the idea of Anna's death., the story simply ends in this point, and if the story continues, then if Anna is no longer present she still present for her beloved, Hazel would feel similarly that she continues to play a huge role in the story of her family and friends and will not be forgettable for them as she says in chapter 12:I understand that the story ends midnarrative because Anna dies or becomes too sick to continue, but you said you would tell us what happens to everybody, and that's why we're here, and we, I need you to tell me.

Generally speaking, Hazel's curiosity for the ending of *An Imperial Affliction* is regarded as a motivation for her to know what will happen for her family and friends after she passes away, she wants to know that everything will be alright to Anna's mother just like she wants to know that her family and her friends would be fine. At the end, she finds out that her mother is taking classes in order to become a support group's leader that is exactly what she is hoping for, her parents keep moving their lives particularly when she meets with Van Houten. Indeed, *An*

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*Imperial Affliction* exposed the uncertainty which it can be one of the most toughest parts about illness.

### 2.9 Conclusion

A thorough study of the main characters' beliefs that the latter differed in terms of reaction to their experience with cancer. Hazel believes that their parents' lives would be easier if she were dead. In fact, her thoughts are common teens' reactions to cope with death. However, Augustus has a constant positivity toward life. The personality of Augustus is used in quite different ways to help support Hazel. In fact, the two bond over the book of *An Imperial Affliction* which it represents a healing value of fiction. Therefore the author seems to highlight their struggle with life and darkness always close and behind.

# **General Conclusion**

## General Conclusion

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*The Fault in Our Stars* is one of most successful works of John Green that reflects a sensitive issue that is about the terminally ill teen's protagonist Hazel Lancaster Grace and Augustus Waters. In Fact, all teenagers are trying to discover their self regardless of whether having a terminal illness or not which is the case of the main characters. The aim of this research work is to analyse the extent which young adult literature shape its readers. We have focused our analysis on the theme of mortality which it helps to cope with death, grief, and loss. We have, as well, examined the main characters' thoughts toward life and death.

Young adult literature has caught the interest recently for the increasing demand especially for teenager readers. Consequently, the topics that emerge in such texts are considered from the prespective of and intimately related to young adult readers. Some of these emerging problems are dealing with relationships with family, home, identity and coming of age.

As a matter of fact, young adult literature is considered to some as a bibliotherapy literature; which is the use of literature to promote healing and mental health, it helps in healing the emotion of an individual. Reading a young adult book is an activity in which teenagers read books for self help of to find an answer to one's problems for example how others dealt with a loss. Importantly, the teenager reader identifies himself with the literary characters in the book that are similar to him in order to release emotions, gain new directions in life, and to learn how to interact with peers and adults.

The importance of reading a young adult book is helping the reader to change his attitudes and behavior. Thus, it influences in shaping, modeling and alternating values. Generally speaking, the use of young adult literature is regared as a useful tool for teenagers as young adult literature which provides rich literary material for exploring problems and dealing with dilemmas of the human experience as percieved by the young.

John Green's literary world has become a safe havean for some and an addiction for many. Green portrays his protagonists Hazel and Augustus who are too smart but also they are so real and they are dealing with real issues; the two are struggling with terminal illness. Green did not write a sentimental cancer novel but the way he tackled it is so different in its approach. His protagonist Hazel feared people's looking to define her by her illness. Green portrays Hazel and Augustus as full human beings who are more than their disease.

In general, *The Fault in Our Stars* novel is more than a love story. Hazel and Augustus relationship help them to over come some obstacles and figure out how to accept

## General Conclusion

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themselves and what is happening around them. Their story does not highlight the fault in their selves but the fault in their stars.

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