

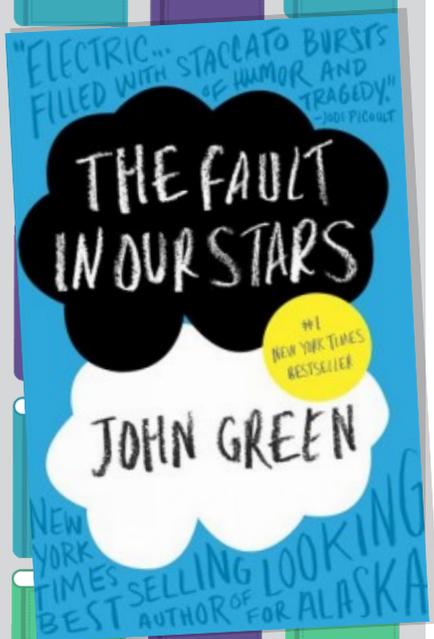
# TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Reviewed by Emelia K.

Rating: 4/5 Stars



The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings. So goes the famous line from Julius Caesar. But what if it's not true? What if life is out of our hands?

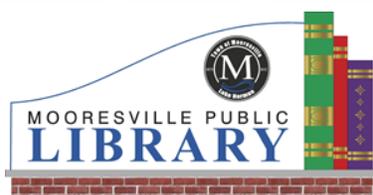
In dreary, grey Indianapolis, Hazel Grace Lancaster suffers from thyroid cancer and spends most of her time at home re-reading the same book, eating sparingly, and thinking about death. As a result, her mother decides she is depressed and sends Hazel to a Cancer Kids Support Group. Most meetings, Hazel passes the time exchanging sighs with fellow attendee Isaac. When, on one fateful day, Isaac brings gorgeous cancer survivor and friend Augustus Waters as support to one of the meetings, Hazel's life changes forever.

At times triumphant and tragic, Augustus and Hazel's romance is, to borrow from the former, "utterly unprecedented." Hazel is at first hesitant to let Augustus too far into her life, but after a life-changing trip together to see the author of her beloved book, she knows there is no going back. She cannot unlove Augustus Waters. When circumstance seems determined to tear them apart, Hazel and Gus must grapple with the realities of life and death and the fragility of beautiful things. One metaphor after another, the two teenagers navigate not only illness, but adolescence itself. Neither of them will ever forget the impact the other makes on their lives. Hazel Grace wonders, though, will this impact leave a scar? Or something more profound?

The Fault in Our Stars is told in the philosophical, sarcastic, honest voice of Hazel Grace. The novel is chock full of her and Gus's metaphors, philosophies, and interpretations of mortality and what it means to live. John Green toes a fine line between that of mind-opening and heartwarming thoughts and humor and that of idealistic and improbable young love. The way Hazel and Gus communicate so articulately and eloquently is what makes this novel so wonderful. The relatability of Hazel's voice makes it accessible to all readers; even those without a personal connection to her situation. Green does not sugarcoat or romanticize cancer; he writes the painful truths about Hazel's life. However, Hazel and Gus's love can at times be too idyllic, too nonconformist. The improbability of their wisdom and their deep love can at times make the novel frustrating, but I came to find it to be a beautiful thing in the end.

The Fault in Our Stars seeks an answer for how to go on when fate seems pitted against you. It is a heartwarming and heart-wrenching tale of sickness, mortality, young love, and finding hope in the moments we are given. A tour de force for John Green, no reader will be left behind in this story of a hard fought life and love.

Request your copy here: <https://bit.ly/3tulzhK>



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