

The Fault in Our Stars Study Guide

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (author)

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Plot Summary

The Fault in Our Stars is a novel by author John Green. The story follows the main character, Hazel Grace Lancaster, as she battles cancer. Not only is Hazel trying to live the normal life of a 16-year-old girl, but she is also struggling with what it will be like for her parents after she dies. While Hazel attends a church support group for cancer survivors, she meets a boy that is one year older than her, Augustus Waters. While Augustus had a type of cancer that causes him to lose his leg and wear a prosthetic, it also has a survival rate that is much higher than Hazel's death sentence.

From the first day that Hazel meets Augustus, the two are practically inseparable. The basis of their relationship ends up being Hazel's favorite book, *An Imperial Affliction*. She requires Augustus to read it and in turn, he requires her to read the book that is the basis of his favorite video game. Hazel relates to the character in her favorite book, Anna, because Anna has a rare blood cancer. Augustus and Hazel bond over the book because both of them of a burning desire to find out how the story ends because the author stops the book before providing conclusion on what happens to each of the characters.

Augustus joins Hazel's pursuit of the book's author, Peter Van Houten, to provide the answers that they need. Augustus even uses a wish foundation to fly him and Hazel to Amsterdam, where the author lives, to talk with him in person. While Hazel is the one that is doomed to die, Augustus ends up telling Hazel that at his recent scan, the doctors discovered that his entire body is filled with cancer. Hazel spends the last months of Augustus's life caring for him and loving him.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

By the time Hazel is 17, her mother thinks she is depressed. Hazel says depression is one of the side effects listed in the cancer pamphlets that she reads. Hazel says depression is a side effect of dying rather than the cancer itself. She describes the cancer survivor support group her mother forces her to attend.

One Wednesday afternoon, Hazel is arguing with her mom about going to support group. She relents because she says the only thing worse than dying of cancer is disappointing her parents. Because her thyroid cancer has gotten into her lungs, Hazel has an oxygen tank, so she wheels it in to the church where the group meets when her mom drops her off for the meeting.

Hazel is getting lemonade from the refreshment table when she notices a new boy that is her age staring at her. The boy continues to stare as Hazel takes her seat and the meeting begins. So Hazel stares back until the boy eventually smiles at Hazel. When Isaac starts sharing how he has to have surgery for his eye cancer and how he'll be blind, he says friends like Augustus help, and nods in the direction of the new boy that has been staring at Hazel.

The new boy introduces himself as Augustus Waters. He says that he had a touch of cancer before but that he's here today because Isaac asked him to attend. Augustus doesn't speak again until Patrick, the group leader, asks about his fears. When he says he fears oblivion, Hazel speaks, which is rare. Her answer elicits a smile of admiration from Augustus.

Augustus asks Hazel her full name after group. He also tells her she is beautiful like Natalie Portman in *V is for Vendetta*. Since Hazel has never seen the movie, and Augustus says it's her autobiography, he invites her to come to his house to watch it with him. She tells him she doesn't even know him and that he could be an axe murderer. She watches as he walks away on what she assumes is a prosthetic leg.

In the parking lot, Hazel's mom isn't there yet, so she and Augustus start to talk again. When he takes out a pack of cigarettes, Hazel says she can't believe he smokes when he has had cancer. He says they only kill you if you light them and he never does. He says it's a metaphor. When Mrs. Lancaster pulls up, Hazel opens the door and tells her mother she's going to watch a movie with Augustus Waters and asks her to tape the next episode of *America's Top Model* for her.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Since Hazel is home-schooled, her only friends are her parents. She also considers an author to be her third best friend. Her mother has been encouraging her to make new



friends at group. Hazel's interaction with Augustus suggests that they will become friends. There is a possibility that they will become more than friends.

Cancer will be the basis of the relationship between Hazel and Augustus. Hazel has presumably found it hard to make friends because she has a hard time relating to normal teenage behaviors when she is dying of cancer. Augustus will open up a whole new world to Hazel, where he understands what she is going through, but at the same time allows her to experience normal teenage experiences.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

On the drive to Augustus's house, Hazel notices what a horrible driver he is. He says he blames it on his prosthetic leg, which forces him to drive with his left foot instead of his right. He says he passed the driving test on the fourth try. Hazel starts to tell Augustus about her diagnosis, but chooses to make her outcome as a rosy as possible, which is not exactly the truth. Hazel tells Augustus she got her GED so now she's taking classes at the local community college.

Gus, as his parents call him, introduces Hazel to his parents. They are in the kitchen making enchiladas and ask how the support group went. With all of the things they talk about with Gus's parents, they never ask Hazel about her oxygen tank. Gus gives Hazel a tour of the basement, which is filled with basketball memorabilia. Gus admits to playing before getting sick. He grabs the movie, when he notices that something is wrong with Hazel. She says she's fine, but all of the standing is starting to weigh on her.

They start to talk about their lives, families and what they like to do. She admits to Augustus that her favorite book is *An Imperial Affliction*. He says he's going to read it but that she has to read about his favorite video game.

They go up to watch the movie. Hazel puts her hand on the couch to let Augustus know it's okay to hold it, but he doesn't. His parents serve them the enchiladas while they watch the movie. Hazel drives Augustus's car home while he rides in the passenger seat.

Augustus asks to see her tomorrow. He admits that he wants to see her tonight but that he's trying not to be too anxious. She suggests they wait until she finishes the book he gave her on his video game.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Hazel doesn't want to admit how the cancer and the cancer treatments have destroyed her lungs, and made her life a bit complicated because she likes him. Gus wants to watch the movie in the basement, which is also Gus's bedroom, because he wants to be alone with Hazel, but his dad insists that they watch the movie in the living room. Hazel is trying to be a normal teenager with Augustus, but she really can't be totally normal because she has health challenges. While Augustus and Hazel are different, they can relate to each other because they are both cancer survivors. Additionally, he has a prosthetic leg and she carries around an oxygen tank. Even though they are different from the majority of their peers, they find solace in the fact that they understand each other.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Hazel stays up late that night reading the book Augustus gave to her. She sleeps in late the next morning. Against her mother's normal procedure, her mom wakes Hazel up when it's almost 10 a.m. Her mother announces that it's Hazel's thirty-third half birthday, so they need to celebrate, in addition to Hazel having class. Hazel decides to celebrate with a trip to the mall with one of her girlfriends.

Hazel goes to class and then the bookstore to buy the first two books in the series of the book Augustus gave her. Hazel notices her mother sitting nearby, pretending that Hazel doesn't know she's there. When Kaitlyn meets her, they start to shop. Hazel leaves Kaitlyn to go to a corner of the mall to read.

Chapter 3 Analysis

While Hazel tries to relate to her healthy friends, such as Kaitlyn, the differences are definitive. For example, while Kaitlyn shops without tiring, Hazel has to stop and rest at various points during the excursion. In a way, Hazel is a lot older than her friends because of what she's had to deal with in her life. This makes Hazel feel distant from girls she once hung out with from school.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Hazel crawls into bed early to read *An Imperial Affliction* for the millionth time. It's about a girl that has blood cancer that starts a charity for cholera. The book ends midsentence. Hazel has written dozens of letters to the author to try to find out what happens. Hazel texts Augustus to tell him what she thought of his book. He says she promised to call, so she does. Augustus gives her a quick opinion of what he thinks of *An Imperial Affliction* so far, he asks to see her. She says when he finishes, so he says he better go.

The next day, Hazel goes to a movie with her mom after her poetry class. When she gets out, she has four frantic messages from Augustus about how the book ended. When Hazel gets home, she calls Augustus back, but Hazel can hear Isaac wailing in the background. He asks Hazel to come to his house.

When Hazel arrives, Isaac is still sobbing while playing a video game. Augustus tells Hazel and Isaac and Monica broke up but that Isaac doesn't want to talk about it. Eventually, Isaac talks to Hazel and says Monica didn't want to dump Isaac after he goes blind and that she can't handle the situation anymore. As Isaac starts raging through the room, Augustus and Hazel talk about *An Imperial Affliction*.

Isaac ends up breaking all of Augustus's basketball trophies. Augustus tells Hazel maybe now his father will understand that he hates basketball now. When Augustus asks Isaac if he feels better, Isaac says no. Augustus says that pain is meant to be felt.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Hazel is starting to experience normal feelings and actions, such as flirting with Augustus and having Augustus flirt with her. At the same time, however, Hazel, Augustus and Isaac have to deal with very adult issues, such as severe illness and death, which makes them grow up faster than they should have to. Once again, while Isaac is battling his cancer and his upcoming surgery that is going to cause him to go blind, Isaac also has to deal with his breakup with his girlfriend, Monica.

The war video game Isaac and Augustus are playing is a distraction from the pain Isaac is feeling. Isaac can take out his frustrations and emotions out via the violence of the video game. Isaac starts to go through a few different stages of grief. First, Isaac goes through the pain stage, but he transitions into the anger stage.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Hazel and Augustus don't speak for a week. Hazel goes on with her life, even meeting with Kaitlyn and her new boyfriend for a coffee one day. Augustus finally calls Hazel, but she has to return his call because she's eating dinner. He admits to wanting to call her every minute, but that he was waiting until he had a coherent thought about *An Imperial Affliction*.

Augustus tells Hazel that he found the author's assistant. He says he emailed her, she passed it onto the author, Peter Van Houten, and that the author responded. Peter says he is not and does not plan to continue writing. This means they still won't find out what happened to the characters in the book.

Hazel works on writing an email to Peter Van Houten. She admits that the book tells her what she's feeling before she feels it. She poses the questions she has that go unanswered after the novel ends. After sending it, she calls Augustus.

They start talking about their last good kisses. Augustus talks about his ex Caroline. When Hazel asks what happened with Caroline, Augustus implies Caroline died. At almost 1 am, Augustus says he has to go to sleep.

Two days later, Hazel still doesn't have a reply from Van Houten. Augustus texts Hazel after Isaac's surgery to let her know Isaac is in recovery and that there are no signs of additional cancer. Hazel goes to visit Isaac in the hospital. After the nurse leaves, they talk about the top traits of a good nurse as opposed to an annoying one.

The next morning, Hazel receives a response to her email. He says he must respond to her questions in person, but since she is there and he is here, he cannot answer them. He says if she is ever in Amsterdam, to visit him. Hazel tells her mother that she has to go to Amsterdam, but her mom insists they can't afford it.

When Hazel tells Augustus, he tells her about a wish foundation. Hazel admits she made her wish before so she can't go that route again. He admits to having a crush on Hazel when he is flabbergasted at the fact Hazel used her wish to go to Disney with her parents.

On Saturday, Augustus shows up with orange tulips and invites Hazel to go on a picnic. Augustus and Hazel's parents get to know each other while Hazel is upstairs getting ready. Hazel can overhear their conversation. Hazel's father tells Augustus that Hazel will be sick for the rest of her life, but Hazel walks into the room to interrupt.

Augustus takes Hazel to an outside sculpture. It's by a Dutch sculptor. Augustus points out the symbolism of the sculpture. Everything so far, from the tulips to the sculpture to



the sandwiches they're eating are Dutch. Augustus says he's talked to the Genies, the foundation that offers wishes, and arranged for his wish to be fulfilled.

Chapter 5 Analysis

The petscan Hazel has in a few weeks, and her nature to worry, foreshadows that the scan will reveal bad news. Hazel assumes Anna, the girl with cancer in *An Imperial Affliction*, dies. She wants to know what happens to Anna's mom and some of the other characters in the book because it is symbolic of how life will go on after Hazel dies, if she dies of cancer. Hazel wanting and needing to get the answers from Peter Van Houten foreshadows Hazel figuring out a way to raise the money she needs to make the trip.

All of the clues Augustus is making with Dutch symbolism suggests that he intends on taking Hazel to visit Van Houten. At the very least, he will use his one true wish to send Hazel to meet Van Houten.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

When Hazel tells her mother, her mother hesitates and says she'll have to talk to Hazel's doctor. Hazel starts to think about how she didn't really want Augustus to kiss her when they were in the park. She wonders though what he was trying to convey when Augustus held Hazel's face in his hands. Hazel calls Kaitlyn for advice.

Kaitlyn guesses from Hazel's description that it's Augustus Waters. Kaitlyn suggests that Hazel is preempting the end that is inevitable. When they hang up, Hazel looks up Caroline Mathers on the Internet. She sees pictures of Caroline and reads about how she died of brain cancer.

Hazel ends up texting Augustus to tell him that she can't kiss him. They continue to say "OK" to each other because it's their way of saying "Always" to each other. Her parents come into her room and say that her greatness and the happiness she brings them is so much more important to them than her illness.

Hazel wakes up in the middle of the night with a pain in the center of her head.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Augustus is trying to tell Hazel that his cancer is back and that he is dying. This is why he is able to institute his last wish for Hazel. Hazel thinks that Augustus's feelings for her are an extension of what he had felt for Caroline before she died. Hazel subconsciously believes that Augustus is trying to replace Caroline with Hazel. This explains why he's giving his wish to Hazel.

Hazel relates to Caroline. Hazel especially relates to the posts online that Caroline's friends write. This makes Hazel liken herself to a grenade. Hazel tells her parents that when she blows up that she is going to leave a lot of casualties behind.

The pain that Hazel has in her head suggests the cancer has gone to her brain. A tumor could be pressing on an area of her brain, which is what is causing the pain.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

She screams and her parents take Hazel to the hospital. Hazel wakes up in the ICU at the children's hospital. When her parents come in, they say her headache is from deoxygenation from the fluid that had filled and now was drained from her lungs. She doesn't have any new tumors.

After they live, her nurse, Allison, fills Hazel in on what happened the two days she was asleep. The nurse tells her that her boyfriend hasn't really left the waiting room since Hazel got there. Hazel spends the next six days in the hospital. She only sees her parents during her stay, but she starts to feel better each day. The day Hazel gets ready to go home, her mom asks if she wants to see Augustus. Shortly, her dad returns to the room with Augustus.

They say they missed each other. Hazel thanks him for not trying to see her when she looked so sick and like hell. She says if they're going to hang out that it can't be like that. Augustus tells her that Van Houten responded to a letter Augustus sent to him, and that the foundation will arrange Hazel's trip when she's feeling better. Hazel reads the letter when she gets home.

Hazel asks her mom to call her doctor to see if international travel will kill her.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Hazel only wants Augustus to see her when she is at her best—as best as she will be under her condition. She doesn't want him to see her vulnerabilities. She indirectly tells Augustus that she just wants to be friends, and not boyfriend and girlfriend. Van Houten seems to understand precisely how Hazel feels and thinks, Ironically, the two have never met.

Since Van Houten seems to fully understand Hazel, the presumption is that he too is a cancer survivor.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Hazel and her parents have a cancer meeting with her doctors. The doctors tell her that her cancer is not going away but that they've seen patients like her live for a long time. At the end, when she asks if she can go to Amsterdam, Dr. Marie says yes, while the other doctor says no. On the way home, Hazel's parents tell her she cannot go to Amsterdam until her doctors agree that it is medically safe.

That night, when Augustus calls, Hazel tells him she can't go to Amsterdam. He says he should have paid for it himself, so his romantic gesture could have gotten him laid. He admits to being a virgin, which surprises Hazel. Her parents hook her up to the machine that helps her breathe and keep her lungs clear. The next morning she writes to Van Houten to explain her situation, but she doesn't send it because it's too pathetic.

She sits in her swing set in the backyard. She thinks about how she'd give anything for a few healthy days of living. When Augustus calls Hazel back, Hazel is crying. Augustus comes over to Hazel's house. To make her feel better, Augustus and Hazel post a classified ad online to sell her "sad" swing set. Then, Augustus reads *An Imperial Affliction* to Hazel while her mom makes lunch. Hazel says she fell in love as easy as you fall asleep.

They sell the swing set. Augustus asks Hazel if she wants to go to support group, but she says she's too tired. Augustus kisses Hazel on the cheek and insists it's just a friendly gesture. When Hazel wakes up later, she reads an email from Peter Van Houten's assistant about her upcoming visit with Augustus Waters and Hazel's mother. Hazel asks her mother to call the Genies to tell them the trip is cancelled, but Hazel's mother tells Hazel that the trip is on. Hazel texts Augustus with the good news.

Chapter 8 Analysis

It's ironic that Hazel is going to die anyway, but her parents and doctors won't allow her to go on the one trip she wishes to complete because it might cause her death. Hazel does have feelings for Augustus that are stronger than friendship, but she doesn't want to admit it because she doesn't want Augustus to suffer after Hazel dies.

Hazel wills herself to live for another week so that she gets the answers to her questions about the outcome of her favorite book.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

The day before she leaves, Hazel visits the support group. Hazel runs into Isaac there. Isaac says he's up-to-date on her life because Gus is always talking about Hazel. After group, Isaac invites over to his house, where they play his and Augustus's favorite video game. They talk about how Hazel feels about Gus. Isaac thinks Hazel doesn't want Gus to "Monica" her, but Hazel thinks that it's the other way around. She doesn't want to "Isaac" him.

Chapter 9 Analysis

This is the first support group meeting that Hazel has attended since met Augustus. It foreshadows it being the last support group meeting Hazel will attend because Hazel is likely to die while she is in Amsterdam or when she returns. Since Hazel will finally have the answers that she's been seeking about the novel, Hazel feels that she will finally be able to let go now.

Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Hazel and her mom share a suitcase because Hazel can't carry one and her mom can't carry two. Her mom wakes Hazel up early even though their flight doesn't leave until noon. They eat breakfast with Hazel's dad. When her dad says goodbye, he cries, which is typical for Hazel's dad. Hazel thinks that her dad probably doesn't think he'll see her again.

When they pick Augustus up, they hear crying come from the house, Augustus is the one crying as he yells at his mom that it's his life. Hazel and her mom return to the car before Augustus sees them and Hazel texts him to say they're outside. He texts her back saying he can't decide what to wear, and 30 seconds later, Augustus comes out of the house with his suitcase.

Hazel has to take her oxygen off to walk through the metal detector. She seems to black out a little without the oxygen. Augustus goes to get breakfast while Hazel and her mom wait at the gate. When they board the plane, Augustus admits to being late to the gate because he didn't want everyone staring at them for boarding the plane early.

When the plane takes off, Hazel realizes it is Augustus's first time flying. She kisses him on the cheek because his enthusiasm is adorable. They switch planes in Detroit. After watching a couple of movies on the flight to Amsterdam, Hazel and Augustus discuss death. Then Augustus admits that he is in love with Hazel. While Hazel is wallowing in joy, she cannot say anything back.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Hazel comes to find out that Augustus is always acting. She realizes when they go to pick him up for the airport. Even though she heard him crying and yelling at his mom, as if she didn't want him to go to Amsterdam, he blames it on something else and emerges from the house as if nothing happened.

Hazel's health seems to be waning. She is fighting it though so that she can complete her trip.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

They land in Amsterdam and check into their hotel. They find a basketful of goodies from the Genies in their room. Hazel sends her mom to the park next to the hotel while Hazel sleeps. When Hazel wakes up, her mom admits she didn't go to the park. It is late afternoon.

She tells Hazel that Peter's assistant made reservations for Hazel and Augustus to have dinner that night. Hazel's mom says they should go alone and that it will be very romantic. When Augustus arrives from his room, he is dressed in a suit. He tells Hazel she looks amazing, but Hazel says she feels underdressed. Mrs. Lancaster tells them to be back by 11.

At the restaurant, their table is on the canal. They have a complimentary bottle of champagne from the restaurant. They both say their traditional OK as they clink their glasses together. They choose the chef's special. Hazel doesn't want to get drunk though because this is a night that she wants to remember. When they start to talk about death and the belief in the afterlife, Hazel gets upset because Augustus says that the dead either live or die for something.

The waiter says Peter paid for their meal. They leave the restaurant and walk around the park nearby for a while. They talk about their theories of what happens to the characters in the book, so they can compare it to what Peter tells them the next day when they meet with him. Then Hazel asks Augustus about Caroline Mathers.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Hazel's mother wants her to experience a romantic dinner with a guy before she dies. This is why she agrees to allow Hazel to go to dinner with Augustus by herself. Not only is this likely to be Hazel's first trip to Amsterdam, but it is likely to be her last trip anywhere. Hazel thinks

Augustus is being selfish. She also thinks he is talking about her. Gus, however, is talking about his own life rather than her life. Ironically, a halo of glow is coming from the red light district—where all of the "sin" takes place. Hazel asks Augustus about Caroline because she is trying to gauge how Augustus is going to handle it when Hazel dies.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

The next morning, Hazel wakes up at 4 a.m. in anticipation of meeting Peter. Augustus arrives to pick Hazel up for their trip to meet Peter at his house. A portbellied man answers the door to the house. When they ask for Peter Van Houten, the man slams the door and screams for his assistant. They hear his assistant explaining it that the two kids are the ones for America there to meet with him. Peter insists it was a rhetorical offer. The assistant convinces Peter to meet with the kids so he can see how his work matters.

Peter Van Houten comes back to let them in the door. They walk back two he bags, which Peter says is 18 years worth of fan mail that he can't open. Hazel realizes this is why he never answered her letters. They settle in and start talking about his book, specifically that he will tell them what happens at the end of the book.

Peter keeps insisting that nothing happens to the characters in the book because it is a work of fiction. He says they cease to exist when the novel ends. His assistant gets so upset with Peter's behavior that she resigns. Augustus ends up pulling Hazel and her oxygen tank out of the house to get away from Peter. When Augustus says he'll write an epilogue for Hazel, she starts to cry even harder.

The assistant chases them down and takes them to the Anne Frank house. She apologizes profusely as she drives them there. When they get to the Anne Frank house, they realize there are many stairs, but Hazel insists on walking them. At the end of the tour, Augustus and Hazel kiss before the video of Anne Frank's father, Otto, talks about his daughters. A small group forms around them and starts applauding.

They go back to Augustus's room at the hotel and crawl into bed together. As Hazel lies on top of Augustus, she tells him she loves him. His arms get entangled in her oxygen tubes. Then they undress. After Augustus removes his jeans he also moves his prosthetic leg. They have sex with each other for the first time, both of them losing their virginity.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Even though the book Peter wrote is very logical and makes sense to Hazel, she realizes the author is insane. Apparently, he is also an alcoholic. Hazel thinks of herself as the main character in the book, Anna. This is why she dresses like Anna to meet with Peter. This is also why Hazel needs to know what happens at the end of the novel, where Peter left the readers dangling.

Hazel ends up disillusioned when Peter doesn't give her the answers she wants. Hazel insists in knowing what happens to Anna's mother because Hazel needs to know what is going to happen to her own mother when Hazel dies.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

The next day when they recount the story of meeting with Peter to Mrs. Lancaster they make it funny, instead of sad. They tell her about the Anne Frank house, leaving out the kissing. They return to Hazel's room. She sits on the bed and Augustus sits in the chair. He puts one of his signature unlit cigarettes in his mouth. He tells Hazel that right before she went into the ICU, he had a scan. He says he lit up everywhere.

Later, he tells her they started chemo but that he stopped it to come to Amsterdam. That's what he and his mother were arguing about when they picked Augustus up for the airport. He says he felt like it wasn't working anyway and that they'll come up with some other treatment by the time they get to Indiana.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Augustus lighting up everywhere when he has a scan means he has cancer everywhere. Ironically, they are both keeping secrets from each other when it is the same secret—they are both dying of cancer. It might not be Hazel that dies first, but instead Augustus might beat her to it. Ironically, Augustus's prognosis of recovery was eighty-five percent when he lost his leg to cancer and Hazel's was that she would never fully recover. Now it is Augustus that is filled with cancer and Hazel that isn't full of cancer.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

On the flight home, Augustus asks the stewardess for champagne. Mrs. Lancaster is asleep and Hazel adjusts the nubbins in her nose to get the stewardess to say yes. Gus is in pain, so Hazel digs a pill out of his bag for him to take with the champagne. Mr. Lancaster meets them in the baggage claim with a sign that says, "My beautiful family, and Gus."

When Hazel tells her dad about Gus's recurrence over dinner, he says he knows. He says his mom told them before the trip. He apologizes. The next day, Hazel eats peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with Gus's parents while Gus naps on the living room couch. Isaac comes over. He says how much it sucks when he finds out Gus is napping.

When Gus wakes up, Isaac and Gus hug awkwardly. They tell each other how they are feeling. Gus instructs Hazel to drive them to the grocery store to buy eggs and then to Monica's house, where they egg Monica's car. Gus gets Hazel to take a picture of he and Isaac egging the car. Hazel mentions she never took another picture of him.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Hazel, Gus, and Isaac relate to each other because they are all sick. Ironically, Hazel thinks of herself as the least sick person in the room when she is with Isaac and Gus. Primarily, this is ironic because Hazel is probably going to die too, but Gus will likely die sooner. Isaac doesn't have cancer anymore, but he is blind from the surgical procedures to remove the cancer from him.



Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 Summary

A week after Hazel, Gus and their parents have dinner at Gus's house, Gus ends up in the hospital with pain in his chest. Hazel visits Gus and his mom says Gus had a rough night and has to cut back on his activity from now on—and that he has to use a wheelchair. His mom says that they need to be a family right now and that Gus agrees, so they don't let Hazel see Gus.

Two weeks later, Hazel is wheeling Gus in his chair to the "Funky Bones" sculpture they visited before. Hazel describes the times she spends with "late-stage Gus." Hazel gets Gus to tell her his sequel to the book, *An Imperial Affliction*. He tells her some of it but says he is still working on the rest of the outcome.

One afternoon, Hazel finds Gus mumbling to himself. He is lying in his bed, soaked with piss. She calls for his parents, who clean Gus up—changing him and his bed. Another night, someone is calling Hazel's phone in the middle of the night from Gus's phone. Hazel thinks it will be his parents telling her he died, but it's Gus. He says he's at the gas station and he needs her to help him because he did something wrong with his g-tube that feeds him his medicine.

Hazel finds him covered in his own vomit. She looks at the point where the tube goes into Gus, but she says she think something is infected. She calls 9-1-1. Hazel tries to comfort Gus as the ambulance approaches and Gus loses consciousness. Gus comes home from the hospital a few days later. He starts hallucinating, where he is seeing things in his room that Hazel does not see.

His older step-sisters come with their children to visit. The last good day Hazel has with Gus is when his family is visiting. Gus's father kisses Hazel on the side of the head and says he thanks God for her every day.

Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 Analysis

In spite of the death sentence Gus is facing, everyone is trying to act as normal as possible. The visit to Funky Bones is likely one of the last activities Hazel and Gus will enjoy together before Gus dies. Gus is becoming less and less like himself. The combination of medication and deterioration from his illness is causing Gus to become less and less like himself. Gus is trying to do the things he could always do, so he is in denial about his limitations now that his ailment is draining life from him.

Gus's family recognizes how much Hazel does for Gus. They also recognize how much she loves him. His father says he is grateful for Hazel because he knows that it is helping his son make the best of the final days of his life.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

One night, after 5 pm, Augustus calls. He sounds normal and invites her to support group. He also tells her to prepare a eulogy. Hazel argues with her parents about allowing her to go. Then, Hazel goes to her room to write Augustus's eulogy.

When Hazel arrives, only Gus is there in his wheelchair. Isaac shuffles behind a lectern. Gus says he wants to attend his funeral and asks Hazel to speak at his funeral. Isaac starts his eulogy. Gus provides Isaac with feedback on his eulogy, which causes Isaac to cry. Hazel gives her eulogy.

Chapter 20 Analysis

It seems that Gus senses his death. Many times, very sick people get much better right before they die. This explains why Gus sounds normal when he calls Hazel to invite her to come to support group. Hazel has undergone a transformation. Now, she has more of a life and is less of a homebody. Ironically, her parents are giving her a hard time about her change in lifestyle, even though they were pushing her to make friends and act more normal before.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Augustus dies in the hospital, eight days after his pre-funeral. He was with his mom, dad and sisters. His mom called Hazel at 3:30 in the morning to let Hazel know. when Hazel's parents come in the room, Hazel senses they are feeling the terror that will one day face them, when she dies. Hazel calls Isaac to tell him.

When Hazel is alone, she thinks about how the pain she is feeling is a ten on a scale of one to ten. She calls Gus's cell phone and listens to his voice on the voice mail. She gets on his wall page online and sees all of the condolences rolling in. she finds it ironic that most of the posts are from people she's never heard of, or that she knows Gus hasn't seen in months.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Hazel has been through a lot of turmoil in her short life. In fact, she has experienced more pain and loss than most adults. She is now having to deal with one of the worst losses she has felt so far. This is the loss of the only boy she has ever loved. Gus's death is also symbolic of Hazel's death. Hazel compares how people handle Gus's death with how they will manage when she



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Five days later, Hazel is attending Gus's funeral. When Gus's parents see Hazel, they shuffle over to her and hug her. Gus's mom tells Hazel that Gus really loved her and that he loved her so much. Hazel removes her oxygen tubes and approaches Gus in his casket. He's wearing his death suit, the same suit he wore when they went to dinner in Amsterdam. She sneaks a packet of cigarettes into the casket with Gus.

Isaac gives a eulogy at the funeral. It is different from the one that he gave to Gus at his pre-funeral. Hazel gives her eulogy. Hazel doesn't want to go to the graveyard, but her parents convince her to go. Peter Von Houten is also at the funeral. He asks to speak with Hazel at the end of the funeral.

When Von Houten offers Hazel's father the flask, he passes, but Hazel accepts it. He asks if she wants an explanation, but Hazel tells him no. she also says he isn't the same man that write the book so he couldn't possibly write a sequel. Later, at home, Hazel's dad tells her that it was such a privilege to love Gus and now he knows how he feels about Hazel.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Hazel and Gus are now experiencing different lives. She knows she has to continue enduring life and losing those she loves. This is over for Gus. Since Gus gave Hazel hope, his death could be the turning point for Hazel's life as well. She might now give up hope, which can cause her health to deteriorate more quickly than when she had hope from her relationship with Gus.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

A couple days later, Hazel goes to Isaac's house. They play the video game together. Isaac asks her if she thinks it hurt when Gus died. He also says that Gus really loved Hazel. Isaac asks if he ever gave her the sequel to the book he was writing for her. Hazel questions Isaac about it because she doesn't know he was writing a sequel.

When Hazel gets in her car, she finds Peter in her backseat. It's a week later but he's still wearing the funeral suit and wrecks of alcohol. He apologizes to Hazel for being pathetic and for his problem with alcohol. He says Hazel reminds him of Anna. He tells the story of a six-year-old girl named Antonia who has her leg removed because of cancer.

Peter apologizes for ruining Hazel's trip and then he starts to cry. This is when Hazel realizes that Peter has a dead person in his family. He admits that his daughter died of Leukemia when she was eight—very much like Anna. He admits that grief doesn't change you, it reveals you. Hazel assess that the character in the book was to give his daughter a teenage life she never really was able to experience. Peter admits it was something like that.

Later, Hazel goes to visit Gus's parents. She's there to find what Gus wrote for her, but his mom feeds her vegetarian lasagna. When Hazel asks for what he was writing for her, his mom says she can check his computer. She doesn't find anything there or in his copy of *An Imperial Affliction*. She crawls into Gus's bed and cocoons herself there for a while.

Chapter 23 Analysis

Hazel is going to discover the sequel Gus was writing for her. This will give her hope for the short-term so that she has the time to find it. When she does find it she'll have something of Gus to hang on to. Anna seems to be a character that is based on a real person, rather than simply a character in a book.



Chapters 24 and 25

Chapters 24 and 25 Summary

Three days later, Gus's father leaves a message for Hazel saying that he found a blank notebook but the first few pages are torn out. Hazel thinks about where Gus might have hidden the pages. She picks up Isaac and she goes to search the room where support group meets. Hazel doesn't find anything.

At group, Patrick asks if Hazel wants to share her favorite memory of Gus. She says she wants to die and is having a hard time breathing. When she gets home, she argues with mom about eating dinner. Hazel tells her mother that she isn't healthy, that she's going to die and there's nothing Hazel can do anything about it. Mrs. Lancaster realizes that Hazel once overheard her saying that she won't be a mother anymore when Hazel dies.

Mrs. Lancaster says she will always be her mother as long as one of them is alive. She admits she's taking classes online so she can become a counselor for families dealing with sick children. This makes Hazel very happy. Mrs. Lancaster says she's been working on her degree for a year and should be done by December. Hazel makes her parents promise will stay together after she dies. They watch America's Top Model together. Hazel eats.

Kaitlyn calls to check-in on Hazel. She asks Hazel what it's like to be in love. She tells Kaitlyn about some missing pages that Gus might have written for her. Kaitlyn says maybe he mailed them to Hazel, but Hazel says they would have gotten there by now. This is when Hazel realizes Gus must have mailed the pages to Peter Von Houten. Hazel hangs up with Kaitlyn and emails Peter's former assistant.

The former assistant responds. She apologizes for Hazel's loss and says she's has spoken to Peter since she quit. She says she'll go to Peter's house in the morning to find the pages and force Peter to read it.

When Hazel's mom wakes her the next morning, she announces it is Bastille Day. They decide to have a picnic at the park. Hazel takes in all of the activity at the aprk and then her mom suggests they visit Gus.

Hazel receives an email from Peter's assistant. She says she was able to retrieve the letter from Gus and attaches it to the email. Hazel reads it. Gus talks about how he wants to be remembered when he is gone—that he wants to leave a mark on the world. He says Hazel is different so he hopes she likes the choices she made during her life. Hazel says out loud that she does.



Chapters 24 and 25 Analysis

Hazel is starting to get her own affairs in order. There are some things she needs to be certain of before she can let go and die. This is why she ends up having the conversations she does with her parents. It clears up some misconceptions Hazel has and actually helps Hazel to come to terms with the fact that her parents will be okay after she dies. While they will miss her and be sad for their loss, Hazel comes to terms with the fact that they will also carry on with life—their lives together and their individual lives.

Hazel's mom always wants Hazel to celebrate strange celebrations and holidays because she wants Hazel to get the most out of life while she is alive.



Characters

Hazel Grace Lancaster

Hazel Grace Lancaster is the main character and narrator of the novel. She is a sixteen-year-old girl. Hazel is also living with cancer. While the doctors have been able to remove the cancer from Hazel's body, her lungs are damaged. Because of the lung damage, Hazel is not expected to live a full life, and she has to wheel around an oxygen tank.

Hazel's parents took her out of high school three years before the novel starts. Hazel earned her GED and is now attending classes at the local community college. She also attends a cancer survivor support group at a local church. Hazel has a couple of friends she still stays in contact with, such as Kaitlyn, but mostly Hazel thinks of her parents as her best friends.

Prior to getting sick, Hazel dated one boy. One day at a support group meeting she meets and ends up falling in love with Augustus Waters. During the time that Hazel and Augustus spend together, Hazel starts experiencing normal teenage things, while also dealing with cancer.

Augustus Waters

Augustus Waters is a seventeen-year-old boy that Hazel meets at support group. Augustus is a cancer survivor but he is attending the meeting because his friend Isaac asks him to attend. Augustus had his leg amputated as a result of his bout with cancer. Now, he wears a prosthetic leg. Augustus seems instantly taken with Hazel and invites her to house to watch a movie with him the first time they meet.

Because of his prosthetic leg, Augustus has to use his left leg to drive. This makes him a horrible driver that jerks the car while driving, which makes Hazel crazy. Hazel gets Augustus to read her favorite book and he makes her read his favorite book, which is about his favorite video game.

When Augustus was in high school, before his cancer, he was a basketball star. His room is full of trophies and plaques, but he says he really hates the sport. After Augustus tells Hazel that he's dying, the two become even closer and admit they love each other. This also leads to them losing their virginity to each other during their trip to Amsterdam.

Isaac

Isaac is one of the bots in the support group. He has cancer that has caused him to lose one of his eyes. He also wears glasses that have such a strong prescription that the



lenses look like coke bottles. Isaac has a girlfriend, Monica. When he is about to have surgery on his second eye that will make him blind, Monica breaks up with him. Isaac, Gus and Hazel become good friends that hang out with each other on and off throughout the novel. Isaac and Hazel are comforts to each other after Gus's death.

Patrick

Patrick is the leader of the cancer support group. He is older than Hazel, Isaac and Gus, but sounds like he is in his twenties. Patrick had testicular cancer. Both of his testicles had to be removed, but he is now cancer free.

Mrs. Lancaster

Mrs. Lancaster is Hazel's mom. She is a stay-at-home mom now that Hazel is recovering from her cancer. Hazel's mom is always urging Hazel to get out and meet new friends. Mrs. Lancaster drives Hazel around to her classes and to support group. When Hazel decides to travel to Amsterdam, Mrs. Lancaster accompanies Hazel and Gus. Hazel finds out that her mother has been taking college courses online to earn a degree to counsel families with cancer survivors.

Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn is one of Hazel's friends from high school. Kaitlyn is quite eccentric. She talks in a British accent, even though she isn't British. Kaitlyn and Hazel shop at the mall together and talk on the phone a few times throughout the novel. Kaitlyn is the one that gives Hazel the idea that Gus mailed the missing notebook pages to Petr Von Houten.

Peter Van Houten

Peter Van Houten is the author of Hazel's favorite book, *An Imperial Affliction*. When Hazel and Gus meet Peter in person during their trip to Amsterdam, Hazel realizes Peter is a drunk and is crazy. Hazel learns that Peter's daughter died of cancer, which must have inspired him to write the novel. Peter does receive the notebook pages from Gus and asks his former assistant to send them to Hazel.

Monica

Monica is Isaac's girlfriend. She breaks up with Isaac before he has his second surgery. She says she can't handle his illness anymore and doesn't want to wait until he is blind to break off the relationship.



Nurse Allison

Nurse Allison is the nurse that takes care of Hazel when she winds up in ICU. Allison tells Hazel what happened for the two days Hazel was in a coma. Additionally, Nurse Allison is the one that Tells Hazel Gus has been sitting in the waiting room since Hazel checked into the hospital.

Lidewij Vliegenthart

Lidewij Vliegenthart is Peter Von Houten's assistant. She is the one that responds to the email that Augustus sends to Peter. When Hazel and Augustus are in Amsterdam, Lidewij Vliegenthart quits when Peter is being rude and unruly to Hazel and Augustus. Lidewij Vliegenthart is also the one that takes Hazel and Augustus on the tour of the Anne Frank house. Lidewij Vliegenthart is also the one that goes to Peter's house to force him to find the three missing notebook pages that Augustus mailed to him.



Objects/Places

Indiana

Indiana is the state where the novel takes place. It is the state where both Hazel and Augustus are born and raised. Additionally, because Indiana is such a popular state for basketball, it provides the foundation as to why Augustus plays basketball in high school—to please his father.

Church

The church is where the cancer support group meets. Hazel refers to the room where the group meets as "the heart of Jesus." The church is where Hazel and Augustus meet. It is also the location where Augustus has his pre-funeral with Hazel and Isaac giving his eulogy.

An Imperial Affliction

An Imperial Affliction is Hazel's favorite book. The author is Peter Von Houten. The book is about a girl suffering from a blood cancer that starts a charitable organization to raise money for a cause other than cancer. Hazel reads the book over and over again because the main character resonates with her. The book ends in the middle of the story, without really providing all the answers to the reader as to what happens to the characters. Hazel and Augustus seek out the author so he can provide the answers to them.

Bones Sculpture

Augustus takes Hazel to a bones sculpture in Indianapolis for their first official date. The sculptor is Danish. While they are looking at the sculpture, which appears to be a set of bones, Augustus tells Hazel about his wish with the Genies, which is the foundation that grants wishes. He says everything on their date is Dutch because he is flying Hazel to Amsterdam so she can meet Peter Von Houten.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the Dutch city where Hazel and Augustus fly to with Mrs. Lancaster. They are there to meet and get answers from Peter Von Houten. While in Amsterdam, Hazel and Augustus go to a fancy restaurant for a very romantic date. Before they leave, Augustus tells Hazel about the cancer that has spread throughout his body.



Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital is where Hazel underwent her cancer treatments. When Hazel falls ill again during the novel, Hazel spends time in the Children's Hospital ICU. This is where Hazel meets Nurse Allison. Children's Hospital is also where Augustus waits in the waiting room every day Hazel is in the hospital.

Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital is where Augustus underwent his cancer treatments. It is also where he had his leg amputated. When Augustus falls ill again during the novel, he spends time in Memorial Hospital. The hospital is where Augustus ultimately dies from an infection caused by the feeding tube he had in his stomach.

Oxygen Tank

Because Hazel's lungs are damaged, she has to wheel around an oxygen tank. The oxygen tank is conversation starter throughout the novel. Children at the mall or the park often want to know what the oxygen tank is and why Hazel has it. Since Hazel cannot breathe properly without it, she always has the oxygen tank with her.

Prosthetic Leg

Augustus wears a prosthetic leg. He had to have his leg amputated because of the cancer. His prosthetic leg forces Augustus to drive with his left foot, which also makes him an atrocious driver. When Hazel and Augustus have sex for the first time while they are in Amsterdam, Augustus removes the prosthetic leg when he is undressing.

Missing Notebook Pages

After Augustus dies, Mr. Waters finds a notebook in the magazine rack with the first three missing notebook pages. Hazel tries to find where the pages are. She thinks the missing notebook pages contain a message to her and the ending Augustus was putting together for her for *An Imperial Affliction*. Hazel finds the missing notebook pages were mailed to Peter Von Houten, who has his former assistant scan them and email them to Hazel.



Themes

Relationships

One of the primary themes running through the novel is relationships. The two primary relationships the novel tackles are romantic relationships and relationships between friends.

Friendship is one of the primary types of relationships the novel tackles. Hazel struggles with her friendships as a cancer survivor. Before getting sick, Hazel attended school and had typical teenage friendships. While she was undergoing cancer treatments, Hazel's parents pulled her out of school and Hazel earned her GED. Hazel still maintains a friendship with Kaitlyn, one of her friends from high school. Their friendship has changed, however, because of what Hazel has gone through with her illness.

Ever since Hazel got sick, she has had a hard time making friends. Her mother is always urging her to go out and make new friends, but Hazel is resistant to the idea because she knows she is dying. All of this changes when Hazel befriends Augustus Waters and Isaac from her cancer support group. This is the point where Hazel starts to be a typical teenager again—albeit one that is living with the aftermath of cancer.

The novel also touches upon romantic relationships. Isaac and his girlfriend Monica seems to be very in love with each other. Monica even stands by Isaac after he loses one of his eyes. She intends to stand by him as his next surgery will cause Isaac to go blind. Isaac's disability proves to be too much for Monica, who ends up dumping Isaac before he checks into the hospital for his surgery.

Finally, while Hazel and Augustus start out as friends, Augustus makes it clear from the start that he has a crush on Hazel. Hazel hesitates to get into a relationship with Augustus because she knows that she is going to die from her illness. The two seem to waver back and forth as to whether they should be friends or boyfriend and girlfriend. The turning point for their relationship is their trip to Amsterdam. This is when Hazel realizes she is in love with Augustus. The two are inseparable after the trip and Hazel stays by Augustus's side until he dies.

Coming of Age

One of the primary themes that run throughout the novel is growing up and coming of age, even against adversity, such as fighting cancer and losing a battle with cancer. Hazel struggles with the aftermath of her cancer treatments, which leaves her hooked up to an oxygen tank and breathing machines. Because of this fact, Hazel has a hard time forming bonds and relationships with other people outside of her parents. Instead, Hazel's coming of age forces her to focus on what is important in life, and she realizes that a relationship with Augustus is one of the important things she should do.



Hazel tries to bury her feelings for Augustus. She tries to just be friends with him. Eventually, Hazel loses her battle. She ends up admitting that she loves Augustus. They are able to have a boyfriend and girlfriend relationship until Augustus does.. Rather than look at life as just a mundane routine, Hazel learns to appreciate what she has and what she was able to experience while Augustus was alive, and while she is still living.

Family

Family is the central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline is about the lives of this particular family—Hazel's family, the Lancasters. While every family has their trials and tribulations, Hazel's family has its own family dynamics that are the same and that are different from those of other families. In the end though, Hazel realizes that her parents are the only ones that will always be there for her and that they will get through whatever life has to throw at them together.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view from the perspective of the main character, Hazel Grace Lancaster. The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with the main character, Hazel. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside Hazel's head, thoughts and inner struggles. The reader cares about the narrator. This point of view also allows the author to inject his own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel takes place in Indiana during the 21st century. The main characters are involved in the daily life of living with their cancer, or in the aftermath as a cancer survivor.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that the main character is dying of her cancer because she makes it sound as if she is survivor. However, as events unfold, the cancer is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into 25 chapters. Each chapter ranges from 10 to 20 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and with some dialogue. The author injects his own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel. The narrator switches back and forth between the past and the present.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is that of human relationships—romantic ones and friendships. One subplot is the coming of age of the characters, primarily Hazel. Another subplot is family.



Quotes

"I'm going to a movie with Augustus Waters" (Chapter 1, p. 21).

"These tubes give me oxygen and help me breathe"
(Chapter 3, p. 46).

"I'm about to lose my eyesight and she can't handle it" (Chapter 4, p. 60).

"Should you find yourself in Amsterdam, however, please do pay a visit at your leisure"
(Chapter 5, p. 78).

"And I can't be a regular teen, because I'm a grenade" (Chapter 6, p. 99).

"Can we call Dr. Maria and ask if international travel would kill me" (Chapter 7, p. 113).

"Trip's on. Dr. Maria called us last night and made a convincing case that you need to live your" (Chapter 8, p. 127).

"I'm pretty up-to-date on your life, because Gus never. Talks. About. Anything. Else"
(Chapter 9, p. 130).

"Because it is my life, Mom. It belongs to me" (Chapter 10, p. 139).

"Thank you for letting me hijack your wish" (Chapter 11, p. 164).

"They're fictions. Nothing happens to them" (Chapter 12, p. 190).

"I lit up like a Christmas tree, Hazel Grace. The lining of my chest, my left hip, my liver, everywhere" (Chapter 13, p. 214).

"Gus had a recurrence" (Chapter 14, p. 222).

"You know we love you, Hazel, but right now we just need to be a family. Gus agrees with that. Okay" (Chapter 15, p. 232).

"I want to write you a sequel, Hazel Grace, but I'm just so damn tired all the time"
(Chapter 16, p. 234).

"I don't think I'm going to make it to write your obituary" (Chapter 17, p. 240).

"Gus, stay with me" (Chapter 18, p. 246).

"He's dying" (Chapter 19, p. 248).

"Augustus Waters was the great star-crossed love of my life" (Chapter 20, p. 259).

"It could be tonight" (Chapter 21, p. 261).



"He loved you so much, too. He really did. It wasn't—it wasn't puppy love or anything" (Chapter 22, p. 269).

"I dislike living in a world without Augustus Waters" (Chapter 23, p. 281).

"I'm taking some class. Online, through IU. To get my master's in social work" (Chapter 24, p. 297).

"You don't get to choose who you hurt in this world, old man, but you do have some say in who hurts you" (Chapter 25, p. 313).



Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Hazel? Why do you think she decides to not tell Augustus that she is dying? Do you think Hazel realizes she is the one that has cut people out of her life and not made an attempt to get close to anyone? What do you think happens to Hazel after Augustus dies?

Discuss the relationship between Hazel and her mother. Why do you think Hazel thinks of her mother as her best friend? Why do you think Hazel worries about what will happen to her mom after she dies? How does Hazel feel about her mom? How does her mom feel about Hazel? How do Hazel's feelings change after she finds out her mother is getting her master's in social work?

Discuss the relationship between Hazel and Kaitlyn. Are they best friends, acquaintances or something else? Is there true competition in their relationship? How does Hazel feel about Kaitlyn? How does Kaitlyn feel about Hazel? What does Kaitlyn help Hazel discover?

Discuss the relationship between Hazel and Augustus. Are they friends, lovers or boyfriend and girlfriend? Is there true competition in their relationship? Why do you think Augustus waits to tell Hazel about his cancer coming back? Why does Hazel decide she loves Augustus?

Who is the true Augustus Waters? Why do you think he returns to his chipper self near the time of his pre-funeral? Why do you think he writes his final letter to Peter Von Houten? Do you think he knew Pater would give the letter to Hazel?

Who is Mr. Lancaster? Why do you think he is so emotional and cries all the time? Do you think Hazel has a different relationship with her father than she does with her mother? What role does Mr. Lancaster play in helping Hazel change her life?

Discuss cancer. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?