

## The Fault in Our Stars Summary

**Hazel Grace Lancaster** has been living with cancer for three of her seventeen years of life. Despite this, she is a girl with a vibrant mind, biting wit, and incredible empathy for the position into which she puts her parents of having to care for her. Her cancer began as thyroid cancer but spread to her lungs, causing her to need to breathe oxygen from a tank at all times throughout the day. She attends a support group at a church; there, she meets a friend named **Isaac** and a romantic interest named **Augustus**. Augustus has been in remission after losing his leg some years prior, so Hazel hesitates in starting a relationship with him, not wanting to hurt him if her illness takes another turn for the worse. She introduces Augustus to her favorite book, and he forms a plan in which they will travel to Amsterdam together (using the "Wish" given to him by a foundation for children with cancer) to meet the reclusive and mysterious author and find out what happens after the book's end. They are able to take this trip, but when they arrive to meet the author he is drunk and surly. At the end of the trip, Augustus reveals to Hazel that his cancer has come back and is much worse than the previous time. They return home and Hazel stays by his side until his death. The author attends Augustus's funeral and tries to apologize to Hazel; she realizes that his book, which is about a young girl with cancer, was based on his daughter who died. Hazel copes with Augustus's death, comforting herself with the strength of her family and a letter about her that Augustus sent to the author before his death.

1. Ss are divided in groups. They are given 6 jumbled paragraphs of the summary to put them in chronological order. In the last two paragraphs the names of the main characters, Hazel and Augustus, have been deleted so the Ss will have to fill in the names and that way finish the story as they see it.
2. Once when they have the plot ready they will have to imagine the dialogue between the characters for each of the paragraphs. They are given the quotes referring to different characters.
3. The Ss will present the novel in the way that one S takes part of the narrator and other Ss act out the dialogues.

1 **Hazel Grace Lancaster** is 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.

2 From the first day that Hazel meets **Augustus**, the two are practically inseparable. Augustus has been in remission after losing his leg some years ago, so



Hazel hesitates in starting a relationship with him, not wanting to hurt him if her illness takes another turn for the worse. 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.

3 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 have 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.

4 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. They are able to take this trip, but when they arrive to meet the author he is drunk and surly.

5 While XXXXXXXX is the one that is doomed to die, XXXXXXXX ends up telling XXXXXXXX that at the recent scan, the doctors discovered that ...(her/his) entire body is filled with cancer. XXXXXXXX spends the last months of XXXXXXXX's life caring for ....(her/him) and loving .....(him/her).

6 The author attends XXXXXXXXXX's funeral and tries to apologize to XXXXXXXX; he reveals that his book, which is about a young girl with cancer, was based on his daughter who died of leukemia. XXXXXXXX copes with XXXXXXXXXX's death, comforting ..... (himself/herself) with the strength of .... (her/his) family and a letter about ..... (him/her) that XXXXXXXXXX sent to the author before ..... (her/his) death.

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### **Hazel Grace Lancaster**

The main character and narrator of *The Fault in Our Stars*. Hazel is 16 years old and has been dealing for three years with thyroid cancer that spread to her lungs. She is very close with her mother and father and has largely left behind the friendships she had before she was diagnosed with cancer and pulled from public school. Because she was able to get her GED, Hazel attends classes at a local community college when her health permits. She meets Isaac and Gus at Support Group and becomes romantically involved with Gus until his death.

### **Augustus "Gus" Waters**

Augustus, 16 years old, meets Hazel at a support group for youths with cancer. Augustus lost part of his leg to osteosarcoma years before and is believed to be cancer-free, though he has a relapse midway through the book that leads to his death late in the book. He falls quickly for Hazel and they begin dating, though she is scared of hurting him through her illness. Gus is a witty character who loves metaphor, symbolism, grand romantic gestures, and he wishes to die with dignity for something larger than himself.

### **Isaac**

Isaac is another friend of Hazel and Gus's from Support Group. He lost one eye to cancer before the book began, and loses another early in the book. He and a girl named Monica seem to be passionately in love when the book opens, but she dumps him shortly before he loses his second eye, which leads to great anger and sadness.

### **Frannie Lancaster, Hazel's mother**

Frannie Lancaster obviously loves Hazel very much, but Hazel feels that she is limiting her mother because her mother has had to leave work and devote all of her attention to Hazel and her medical treatments. Late in the book, however, Hazel and the reader learn that, for the past year, Frannie has been pursuing a Masters in Social Work online.

### **Michael Lancaster, Hazel's father**

Michael Lancaster is incredibly emotionally invested in Hazel's survival, though he must continue working to support the family; as a result of this, he appears less in the novel and knows less about Hazel's illness and treatment than other characters. Hazel's father cries often, leading to more guilt on Hazel's part that she is going to leave her family devastated when she dies.

### **Peter Van Houten**

Peter Van Houten is the American author of a fictional novel *An Imperial Affliction* that exists within *The Fault in Our Stars*. He is a witty, mean older man and an alcoholic, nothing like Hazel had imagined when reading the book so many times. Van Houten keeps up a correspondence with Gus that leads to Gus and Hazel visiting him in Amsterdam, though the visit is largely unsuccessful. However, Van Houten attends Gus's funeral in



America and attempts to apologize to Hazel, whereupon she realizes that he had a young daughter who died of leukemia.

### **Lidewij Vliegenthart**

Lidewij Vliegenthart is Peter Van Houten's secretary and, apparently, his caretaker. She arranges for Gus and Hazel's trip to Amsterdam, leaving Van Houten largely in the dark: she hopes that his meeting fans whom his book has truly touched will distract him from his declining health and habits. She quits this job after the disaster that is the teenagers' visit to his home.

### **Patrick**

Patrick is the leader of the support group that Hazel, Gus, and Isaac attend. He is a survivor of testicular cancer and uses his story and his time to attempt to inspire other young people to continue fighting cancer and communicating about their progress and feelings with one another.

### **Kaitlyn**

Kaitlyn is the only of Hazel's school friends with whom she keeps in touch. Kaitlyn is boy-obsessed and shopping-obsessed, so it is hard for Hazel and Kaitlyn to truly relate to one another; but Kaitlyn keeps conversation with Hazel as light and normal as possible.

### **Monica**

Monica is Isaac's girlfriend until she dumps him, ceasing all communication with him just before his eye operation.

### **Caroline**

Caroline was Augustus's former girlfriend who also died from cancer. Her form of cancer affected her brain, causing her to be very rude and angry as she approached the end of her illness.

### **Mr. Waters and Mrs. Waters, Augustus's father and mother**

Mr. and Mrs. Waters are Augustus's parents, and are very thankful for Hazel's support throughout his illness. They cover their house in religious and uplifting aphorisms.

### **Dr. Maria**

Dr. Maria is one of Hazel's many doctors, one that Hazel especially likes for her honesty and care. She allows Hazel to travel to Amsterdam even though it is a danger to her health, arguing that Hazel's life is still hers to live and enjoy.