

The Fault in Our Stars - Discussion Questions

1. John Green derives his title from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.' Why did Green alter this? How does the meaning change?
2. How would you describe Hazel and Gus? How do their personalities and outlooks complement each other?
3. How do Hazel and Gus each relate to their cancer? Do they define themselves by it, ignore it, or confront life's unfairness in different ways?
4. Some descriptions of pain and medical realities are graphic. Did these add authenticity or distract from the story?
5. Hazel says, 'Cancer books suck.' Is this a cancer book? How did it compare to your expectations?
6. Does John Green convincingly write from the perspective of a teenage girl?
7. Why is *An Imperial Affliction* so important to Hazel? Have you ever felt that way about a book?
8. What did you think of Peter Van Houten, the fictional author? Why might Green admit affection for such a flawed character?
9. Green once served as a hospital chaplain. How does the idea of a 'hero's journey within illness' apply to Hazel and Gus?
10. What role does humor play in the novel? Is it effective or inappropriate?
11. How does the novel explore the search for meaning in life and death?
12. How do Hazel and Gus change over the course of the book?
13. Was this book too tragic to read, or did you find it uplifting?