



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

mid to upper secondary; ages 14+

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English Language & Literature
- **General capabilities:** Critical & Creative Thinking; Ethical Understanding; Personal & Social Capability

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- 'Its finely wrought language, beautifully drawn characters and distinctive voice.'—**Frank Bruni, *The New York Times***
- 'John Green is one of the best writers alive.'—**E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars***
- *The Fault in Our Stars* debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, spent 130 consecutive weeks on the charts and has since sold more than 23 million copies worldwide.
- Featured in *Time Magazine's* **100 Best YA Books of All Time**.
- A film adaptation was released in 2014 and was a box-office hit.

THEMES

- Family
- Courage
- Identity
- Life, consciousness and existence
- Mortality
- Coming of age
- Isolation
- Love

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

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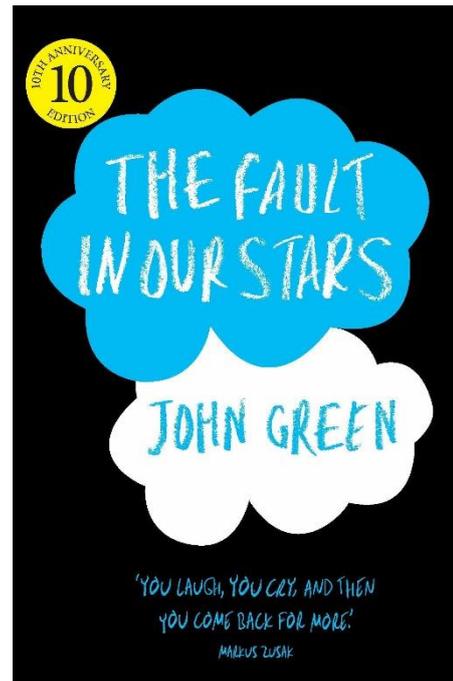
PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143778196 (paperback);

9781742535203 (ebook)

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The Fault in our Stars: 10th Anniversary Edition

John Green

PLOT SUMMARY

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

The Fault in Our Stars is insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw. It brilliantly explores the funny, thrilling and tragic business of being alive and in love.

'This is a book that breaks your heart – not by wearing it down, but by making it bigger until it bursts.'

– **The Atlantic**

'[Green's] voice is so compulsively readable that it defies categorization. You will be thankful for the little infinity you spend inside this book.' – **NPR.org**

'Damn near genius . . .' – **Lev Grossman, *TIME Magazine***

'John Green is one of the best writers alive.'
—**E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars***

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



John Green is an award-winning, *New York Times*–bestselling author whose many accolades include the Printz Medal, a Printz Honor, and the Edgar

Award. He has twice been a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Prize. With his brother, Hank, John is one half of the Vlogbrothers (youtube.com/vlogbrothers), one of the most popular online video projects in the world. You can join the millions who follow John on Twitter (@realjohngreen) and tumblr (fishingboatproceeds.tumblr.com) or visit him online at johngreenbooks.com.

John lives with his family in Indianapolis, Indiana.

FROM THE AUTHOR

John Green says, on the tenth anniversary of his YA classic, *The Fault in Our Stars*:

After ten years of *The Fault in Our Stars*, I'm left feeling overwhelmed with gratitude – grateful to everyone who has read and shared the story, and grateful that it is still finding new readers today. It is so strange and lovely to think that Hazel and Gus are still coming to new life in readers' imaginations. Every book needs generous readers who are willing to commingle their own thoughts and experiences with the story, and on this front (and many others) *The Fault in Our Stars* has been very lucky, indeed.

I wrote this book amid grief. It was an anguished shout into a void that couldn't hear me, a desperate attempt to find some kind of hope or meaning that could withstand the reality of human suffering. I wanted it to be funny, yes, because life is funny, but in the writing of it I was sad and angry – angry with a world that situates fault in the sufferer's self and never in the stars, and devastated by my social order's refusal to acknowledge the full humanity of the chronically ill. When I was writing the book, it felt so personal and specific to my own boiling grief that I never imagined it would find a broad audience.

And yet, it has. Every book requires generous readers – when a reader is able to commingle their own feelings and experiences with a story, the story can become far better than the sum of its parts. Looking back at the ten years since *The Fault in Our Stars* was first published, what overwhelms me most is the extraordinary generosity of the book's readers. They've brought their own hope and fear and grief and hurt and joy to the story, and in doing so, they've given *The*

Fault in Our Stars a deeper and more lasting life than I ever dreamed.

THE REVIEWERS SAY

'A novel of life and death and the people caught in between, *The Fault in Our Stars* is John Green at his best. You laugh, you cry, and then you come back for more.' **Markus Zusak, bestselling and Printz Honor-winning author of *The Book Thief***

'An electric portrait of young people who learn to live life with one foot in the grave. Filled with staccato bursts of humor and tragedy, *The Fault in Our Stars* takes a spin on universal themes-Will I be loved? Will I be remembered? Will I leave a mark on this world?-by dramatically raising the stakes for the characters who are asking.' **Jodi Picoult, bestselling author of *My Sister's Keeper* and *Sing You Home***

'John Green writes incredible, honest truths about the secret, weird hearts of human beings. He makes me laugh and gasp at the beauty of a sentence or the twist of a tale. He is one of the best writers alive and I am seething with envy of his talent.' **E. Lockhart, National Book Award Finalist and Printz Honor-winning author of *We Were Liars*, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau Banks* and *The Boyfriend List***

Teacher Review by Rohan Clifford

Since Green's 2005 acclaimed debut novel *Looking for Alaska*, and the subsequent *An Abundance of Katherines* and *Paper Towns*, Green has collaborated on 3 more books, written 2 more, and released short stories for various compendiums, as well as a great deal of online and interactive material.

But not everything can be plain sailing in an infinite universe. You just have to take your chances. That's the credo of the characters in Green's novel, *The Fault in Our Stars*, existing as they do in a universe seemingly oblivious to their suffering. A universe, which allows the young and promising to die from horrible and dehumanising cancers, and leaving the living scarred.

Unlike many cancer stories, Green's novel looks at the view from within courtesy of a support group, meeting regularly in a church splayed out in the shape of a cross. This is where sixteen year old, parentally-adored and terminal (no spoiler) Hazel, meets survivor Augustus through mutual friend and fellow resident of Cancervania, Isaac. Amidst all the seeming fragility of what becomes known as survivor's group, there is a blunt acceptance of the above-mentioned credo.

The view from inside the universe of potentially terminal disease, as you would expect, is full of fear and desperation, but also acceptance and coping. From outside that world, we might call it bravery. Inside, you



don't have the choice of bravery, so it is just how you get on with it. Or how you don't.

There's an edge to the voice of Green's characters that is confronting. They're tough. They yell from the page like a short-changed New York cabbie, even though the story is set in Indiana. And that's even when they're not yelling. The dialogue in *The Fault in our Stars* is at times cynical and quick-fire, hinting, perhaps at ways of coping with the obscene brutality of cancer.

I didn't tell him that my diagnosis came just three months after I got my first period. Like: Congratulations! You're a woman. Now die.

Hazel continues to exist, largely thanks to a range of hospital equipment and medication, including a portable oxygen tank because, as she admits, her lungs suck at being lungs. All the while Hazel struggles to draw breath, she nourishes us readers with some impressive observations:

There is only one thing in this world shi**ier than biting it from cancer when you're sixteen, and that's having a kid who bites it from cancer.

Observations, which reveal the world-view of a sensitive soul in a ghastly, insensitive universe. But it's not all cannulas and treatment, gradual dismemberment and slow suffocation.

On the outskirts of Cancervania, parents have their own survival methods, forcing themselves to cope with the daily terror of losing their once blossoming children to the destruction of their own cells. Some manage by embracing positive affirmations, over time emblazoning them across cushions, placemats, bed spreads until entire households become museums of absurd positivity. (***My parents call them encouragements***, explains Augustus). Some are stoic. Some are comically hopeless, crying at the mention of death, or at the mention of anything that might lead to the mention of death. Some are absent, others, very much, are present.

In Green's novel, there is love, and of course there is loss. There is much, much humour and teenage angst. There is diminution and there is growth, the reduction and destruction of beautiful human beings and their glorious, gorgeous evolution. There is the same constant search for meaning, uniting the dying with the living, the blamed with the blameless. Underpinning all of this, there is the very human question of why or how this could happen.

Answers are found in the writing of Hazel's revered and reclusive Dutch author Peter Van Houten, who has written just one novel *An Imperial Affliction*, the closest thing Hazel has ever had to a bible (***Pain demands to be felt***, says Van Houten). It is when she reluctantly shares her devotion to this book with Augustus (who

returns the favour by introducing Hazel to *The Price of Dawn* and its triple digit zombie-death count) that the sparks of attraction are kindled. The ensuing romance, acknowledged by both parties as inherently star-crossed and quite possibly futile is funny, uplifting, perhaps even death-defying.

He sighed, exhaling for so long that to my crap lungs it seemed like he was bragging.

The Fault in our Stars is not about dealing with cancer or about cancer per se. It is about how brilliantly well these smart and truly tangible characters react and cope with what an infinite universe has dealt them and how we can identify ourselves as the bumbling, well-meaning idiots who live somewhere outside Cancervania.

There is not meaning to be found in these stars. But there is meaning to be made.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Information and communication technology (ICT) competence:

- Research and critically evaluate information in relation to the text, on the internet
- Digital Scrapbook
- Book Trailer creation
- ICT activities as listed

Critical and Creative Thinking

- Infer character motivation
- Locate and interpret evidence
- Reinforce the comprehension strategies
- Make personal connections to the text and reflect on related issues
- Investigate author characterization and setting
- How authors use imagery effectively
- Character profiles, character maps.
- Problem solving

Ethical Behaviour/ Personal and Social Competence

- Personal connections – how might you react to situations if you were in this situation?
- Make personal connections to the text and reflect on related issues
- Realism of the story – realism versus narrative. Could this situation really happen?



Use as a model for personal reflective writing based on experience

ASSESSMENT

Digital Scrapbook/Writer's Notebook

Students to reflect on and respond to *The Fault in Our Stars*, by creating a digital scrapbook or writer's notebook.

Students view a sample electronic scrapbook and use the project rubric to evaluate it, becoming familiar with the project requirements in the process. They use an online tool to evaluate resources on a topic related to a piece of literature and post their evaluations for class reference.

Students then use online resources to capture 'scraps' of information about their assigned topic and create a scrapbook using Keynote/PowerPoint, Prezi, iMovie/Windows Movie Maker or Animoto, making sure to cite all their sources.

They share their online scrapbook with the class, defending their choice of scrapbook entries: why is the entry important to the understanding of the topic?

Further resources:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/literary-scrapbooks-online-electronic-787.html?tab=4#tabs>

Alternatively, the Digital Scrapbook can be done as a Writer's Notebook (using an exercise book to record their reflections and responses to the text).

Practise analytical text response essays

Explore various written text responses that explore the themes, character development etc. Include evidence of note taking/summarising within the scrapbook/notebook.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Digital Scrapbook

- Choose one of the following applications to create your digital scrapbook: Pages, Keynote, Word

Name your Digital Scrapbook:

The Fault in Our Stars- Novel Study – Your name/Term/Start date

Save this to your desktop, you will be working on this throughout the term as you read.

As you follow the directions that will be given to you over the duration of the term, remember to cut and paste all URL's of all sites you use to research,

create pieces, and access/find images/music/film links into your Digital Scrapbook

- In a digital scrapbook or writer's notebook, write a few paragraphs predicting what you think *The Fault in Our Stars* is about, based solely on your reading of the blurb.

Don't forget to SAVE your work!

- About the Author:** Take some time to research the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green. Record any and all information you find in your digital scrapbook / writer's notebook. (Be sure to record all website addresses for information cited.) You might like to begin here:

<http://johngreenbooks.com/the-fault-in-our-stars/>

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-fault-in-our-stars-9780143778196>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse/videos?view=0>

ACTIVITIES

- Now you have completed reading *The Fault in Our Stars*, it is time to reflect on the novel. Revisit the work you completed while reading. Were your early reading predictions and character analysis correct?
- Write a page on how the outcomes of the novel differed from your early predictions, or were the same.

Interview

- Choose a character from *The Fault in Our Stars* to interview. Write 6 questions you would ask this character and then write the answers you think the character would give you.

Letter from a character

- Write a letter from a chosen character another character. Take this opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings.

6 Word Story

- Using only six words, sum up *The Fault in Our Stars* and its story line. You may choose to do this from the point of view of one of the characters.

Write an epilogue/prologue

- Choose to write either an epilogue or a prologue for *The Fault in Our Stars*. Depending on which you choose, set your epilogue/prologue 10 years into the future or the past. You may do this from any character's point of view.



RESPONSES TO TEXT

Short poem creation

- Go to <https://piclits.com/piclit/261/>
Choose a photo that represents themes from *The Fault in Our Stars* to you. Choose words from lists, drag and drop to create your PicLit poem Save and add to your Digital Scrapbook.

TagGalaxy Warm up

- Go to <http://taggalaxy.de/>
- Type in a keyword that elucidates a theme from the novel; e.g. Hope Click on a planet.
- Take a screenshot of the resulting image
- Select one of the images that will inspire you to write. Take another screenshot
- Save these screenshots to your Digital Scrapbook and write a short poem/story (no less than 25 words) inspired by the image.
- Don't forget to Save and add to your Digital Scrapbook.

Character Voki

- After reading chapters 1–4, choose two characters from the book.
- You will be creating a talking avatar using Voki.com.
- Go to Voki.com and log-in or create a Voki account. (Note: If you are not logged in, you will not be able to embed your Voki in your blog/keynote.)
- Choose two characters from *The Fault in Our Stars*. Create a Voki for those characters. Due to the word count limitations in each Voki, you may need to do a few Vokis for your character to complete the speech requirements. You're writing the speech in first person as if the character is talking about him/her. Include the following details in your speech:
Include three text details that describe their behaviours, how they feel, what they might be thinking about one another/their situation, their appearance, etc.

Thinking about the characters in *The Fault in our Stars*

- Go to <http://oneword.com/>
- After reading the instructions, click 'go'

- You will have ONE minute. With the word that appears at the top of the screen choose to do one of the following-

Write a piece of dialogue between two characters using the word provided

OR

Write as much as you can about a character using the word provided.

- Do NOT submit your writing, instead, highlight what you have written, copy and paste OR take a screenshot of the page. Paste this into a page in your Digital Scrapbook. Don't forget to copy in the URL of the site and date your work.

Social media

- Imagine what the social media pages of characters from the novel might look like. Think about what their posts might look like and the comments they might put on one another's posts.
- Create a folder on your desktop entitled The Fault in Our Stars – Social Media.
- Begin searching for and collecting copyright free images that represent your visualisation of the characters and the locations they live/visit.
- Create a fake page for any character in *The Fault in Our Stars*
- Take a screenshot, save URL and add to your Digital Scrapbook

Book Trailer

Using iMovie/Windows Movie Maker, you will be creating a Book Trailer for *The Fault in Our Stars*. This will form part of your assessment for this Unit of work.

- Create a folder on your desktop titled **Book Trailer- The Fault in Our Stars**.
- Source images from the following websites (remember to save the URL's of the images chosen and paste them into a Word doc for later).
- <http://www.morguefile.com/>
- <http://www.wylio.com/>
- <http://imagebase.davidnblack.com/main.php>
- <http://www.photos8.com/>
- Once you have chosen and saved your images to the folder, begin your storyboard
- Go to Pages/Word Processing/Miscellaneous
- Select Storyboard



- Begin planning your trailer using the storyboard template.

Remember to consider the following:

1. Are your chosen images relevant?
2. Will you include text?
3. Is the text relevant?
4. Where will choose to place text?
5. Are you complying with copyright rules?
6. Is your music choice relevant?
7. Does it suit the 'mood' you are trying to convey?

Once satisfied with your storyboard, consider music choice. Use the following site to source creative commons licensed music (remember to save the URL's of the music chosen and paste them into a Word doc for later)

- <https://creativecommons.org/legalmusicforvideos>
- Open iMovie and begin creating your Book Trailer
- Don't forget to paste all URL's for sites used into a Bibliography Slide at the end of your book trailer.
- Use the following checklist to determine if your Trailer is ready to submit for assessment.

Book trailer checklist

You are NOT finished until you complete all of these steps!

Verify that every single image link works. If one doesn't work, you have 2 choices:

- replace the picture and cite the new one
- find the image and cite it properly

Put your citations in the order the pictures appear in the video. Make your citation slide pretty:

- Line up all the entries
- Make the fonts all the same
- Double check your spelling and capitalization
- Do this: file – save as pictures Insert your citation picture into iMovie
- Double-check all of your spelling and grammar on your trailer text frames. Make sure your music matches the mood of the book. Make sure you have included the title,

author, and book cover picture in the very beginning of your trailer.

Once you have done all of this, finalize the trailer, fill out the bottom part, and give this sheet to your teacher.

Name:

Book Trailer name:

Saved to folder/ server.....:

Book trailer Rubric

Daily grade:

_____/25: All images (except the book cover) found on sites listed

_____/25: citation slide present at end of trailer

_____/50: All links on citation slide work (-10 for each problem)

Test grade:

_____/50: Grammar (-5 points for each major error)

Elements:

_____/10: Mood was obvious and consistent

_____/5: Setting was represented and matched mood and pictures

_____/20: Plot was introduced, but not completely revealed; it made sense

_____/10: Pictures were interesting and made sense

_____/5: Title of the book was included

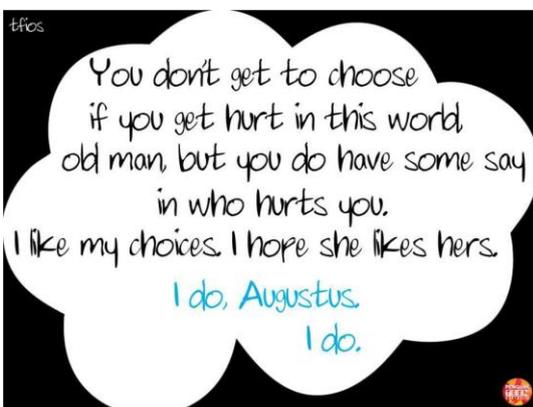
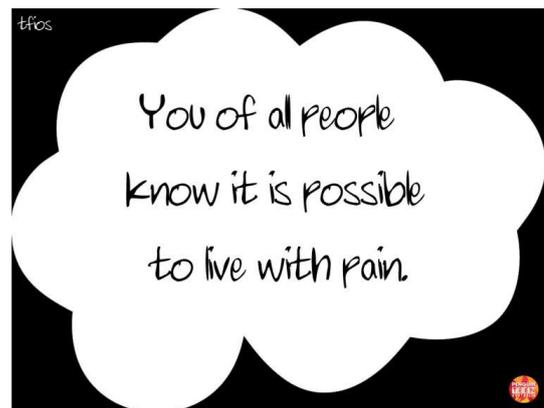




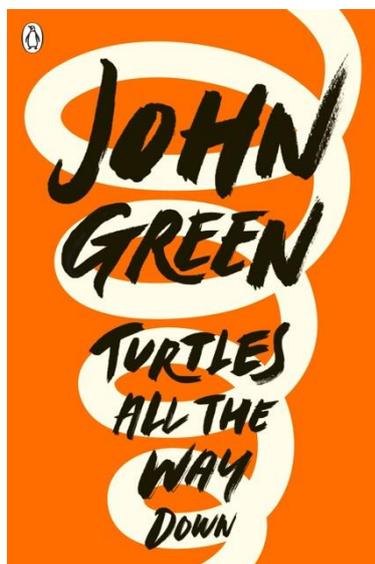
FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Quote Cards

- Create some quote cards using your favourite quotes from the novel. They can be used in a variety of ways with students as writing prompts, tools for prediction, book trailer creation and class discussion.
- The following quote cards are some examples:



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Turtles All the Way Down
by John Green

Why this story? John Green shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of mental health, love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

'It's quite rare to find someone who sees the same world you see.'

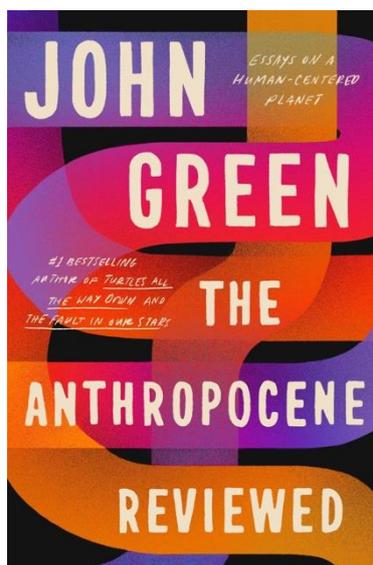
Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett.

But there's a hundred thousand dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate.

So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



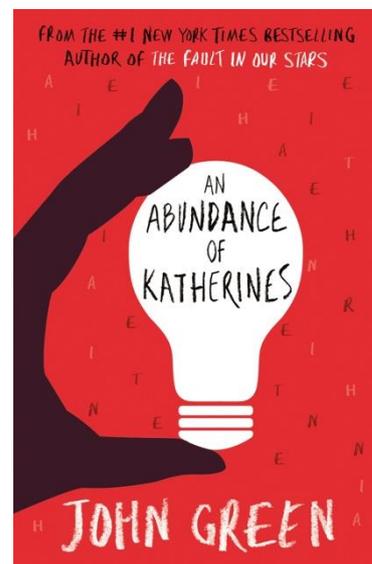
The Anthropocene Reviewed
by John Green

Why this story? Read it for mind-expanding essays on modern life and the human experience in the first non-fiction work by John Green – one of the world's most beloved novelists.

The Anthropocene is the current geological age, in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his ground-breaking, critically acclaimed podcast, John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet - from the QWERTY keyboard and Halley's Comet to Penguins of Madagascar – on a five-star scale.

Complex and rich with detail, the Anthropocene's reviews have been praised as 'observations that double as exercises in memoiristic empathy', with over 10 million lifetime downloads. John Green's gift for storytelling shines throughout this artfully curated collection about the shared human experience; it includes beloved essays along with six all-new pieces exclusive to the book.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



An Abundance of Katherines
by John Green

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight Judge Judy - loving best friend riding shotgun - but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl.

Love, friendship, and a dead Austro-Hungarian archduke add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
The Fault in our Stars: 10 th Anniversary Edition	John Green	9780143778196	9+	\$19.99		
Turtles All the Way Down	John Green	9780141346045	9+	\$14.99		
The Anthropocene Reviewed	John Green	Hardback: 9781529109870 Paperback: 9781529109887	9+	\$45 \$35		
An Abundance of Katherines	John Green	9780141346090	9+	\$19.99		
Let It Snow	John Green	9780141371207	9+	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

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