

The Merit of English Section

Junior Division

Name of Winner : Ho Cheuk Yin Sally

Name of School : Holy Family Canossian College

Book Title : *The Faults in Our Stars*

Author : John Green

Publisher : Dutton Books

The book “*The Faults in Our Stars*” was written by John Green. This touching book is mainly about the love story between a 16-year-old girl named Hazel Grace Lancaster, who has thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs, and a 16-year-old boy named Augustus Waters, who had one leg amputated.

Suffering is a prominent part of the characters’ lives. Augustus and Hazel are not simply struggling from the pain of cancers, they are also suffering from the fear of

losing their families and each other.

Augustus, Gus to his friends, is a very bold person. After he meets Hazel in a cancer patients' support group, he starts to pursue Hazel. He is unafraid to reveal his true feelings to her. He always tells Hazel that he is in love with her. He deeply understands the fact that they may die due to cancer within a blink of an eye, and he does not want to idle away any moment to tell Hazel how much she is loved.

However, Hazel holds an opposite opinion of love. Hazel once described herself as a grenade that would eventually explode someday, and she is afraid that by that time, everyone she loves would get deeply hurt. Therefore, she constantly pushes Gus away at the beginning of their relationship.

I was first so mad and heart-broken to see how Hazel

keeps pushing Gus away, but when I tried to put myself into Hazel's shoes, I thought I would do exactly what she does to Gus because I would be too afraid of causing him pain after my death. I would consciously keep my distance from Gus to minimize the casualties. However, after reading the whole book, I realize that shutting yourself down and refusing to let anyone come close will cause the people who love you with all their hearts more pain than seeing you die. Sometimes, people are stronger than we think they are. People who truly love you would share the pain and face all the difficulties with you rather than see you suffer all alone.

Therefore, I very much appreciate Gus. I want myself to have the courage to show my feelings to others. I used to be like Hazel, building up a wall inside my heart and not letting anyone in. It seems strong and unbreakable on the outside, but now I know it was actually a symbol of fragility. I was always afraid of letting my parents know

about my difficulties, and I often pretend like everything is fine when it is not because I did not want them to worry about me. However, I think I underestimated their love for me. Even though the love they give me could not defeat my difficulties, they will always help me to get through my most frustrating times. After reading this book, I will try to open myself up to others, and I hope I will have the courage, as Gus did, to express my love to my loved ones because now I realize, just like Hazel and Gus embraced each other's indifferences, my loved ones will also embrace the less attractive parts of me.

At the end of the story, Gus dies from his cancer. After the death of Gus, Hazel goes through a desperate period, but she learns that this is unavoidable, not only for people with cancer, but also for regular people. If you love someone, you risk losing them one day. Dying is an inevitable part of life. This is the destiny from which Hazel and Gus could not escape. They have no power

over the situation itself, but there is one thing they could take control of which is how they choose to deal with it. The death of Gus causes enormous pain for Hazel. This pain will exist like a scar on Hazel's body. She will always remember everything between Gus and her. I think this type of pain is necessary, and in fact, it is what makes up an enormous part of joy in Hazel's short but beautiful life as the quote hanging at Gus' home says, "*Without pain, how can we know joy?*"

To conclude, I enjoyed reading this book very much. This book is much more than a cliché youth romance story. It also teaches me how to face death and to treasure what we still hold in our hands. I realize that the world can be very cruel and unfair sometimes, but instead of wasting our breath complaining, we can treasure the time we have and spend it on the right things and people. Life is precious, so we should treasure and appreciate it when we still have time.

There are always faults in our stars, but it is what makes them shine even more beautifully. Hazel and Gus found their forever in their numbered days which is a miracle indeed, so we can also learn from the book and try to find hope in desperation and look for happiness in pain. Time and tide wait for no man, let's embrace the faults and shine fearlessly in the sky.