

**OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM OF HAZEL GRACE IN JHON GREEN'S
NOVEL *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS***

SKRIPSI

*Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Lesson seminar of language
English Education Program*

By

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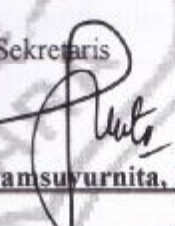
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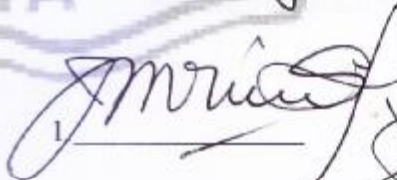
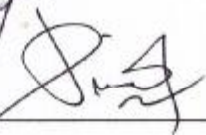

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SURAT PERNYATAAN

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ABSTRACT

Saragih, Widya Syafutri. 1402050196. Optimism and Pessimism of Hazel Grace in Jhon Green's Novel *The Fault In Our Stars*. Skripsi. English Department of Teacher Training and Education. University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. Medan. 2018.

This study was deal with the optimism and pessimism in Hazel Grace of Jhon Green's *The Fault In Our Stars* novel. This research reviews the literature examining connections involving the key constructs of optimism and pessimism. Individual differences in charaterisrics such as optimism and pessimism have been shown to contribute to variability in distress during stressful situations. The write try to analyze how the optimism and pessimism can be correlated to literature and how illness can be reflect to the main character from the novel entitled *The Fault In Our Stars*. The most dominant type of optimism from this research is dispositional optimism and the most dominant type of pessimism from this research is dispositional pessimism. The optimism and pessimism can effect to someone's life caused by some factors such as illness and depressed like the main character from *The Fault In Our Stars* novel.

Keywords: novel, optimism, pessimism, literature, illness.

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Finally, the researcher realizes that this research is still far from being perfect, but she hopes that this research will be useful for the readers especially students of the English education program. May Allah SWT bless all of us. Amin.

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Medan, March 2018
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Furthermore, it represents life in measure a social reality, eventhough natural world and inner of subjective world of individual also has been the subject of literary imitation.

In general, literary works are divided into three parts literary works namely prose, poetry, and drama. As Klarer (2004: 1) says that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. Prose is the expression in a direct style, in other words we can say straight forward speech. Poetry is extraordinary because it's precious, polish, and the way in which it charges word with force and suggestion. While drama or plays is different from other literary works. Drama is treated as literature to be read privately, or as the other, to be seen in public performance.

Prose can be divided into some parts: they are novel, short story, novella, etc. Scott (1980: 196) states that a novel is a fictious prose narrative dealing with human beings and their actions over period of time, displaying varieties of human character in relation to life. A short story is a piece of prose fiction marked by relative shortness and density. A novella is awritten, fictional, prose narrative normally longer than a short story but shorter than novel.

Novel is one kind of literary works beside poem, poetry, drama, and others. According to The World Book Encyclopedia (2014: 642), novel is a long fictional story written in prose. It is one of the most popular forms of literature. Novels differ from histories, biographies, and other long prose narratives that tells about real events and people. The subject matter of novels covers the whole range of human experience and imagination. Some novels potrary the true life of the characters and events.

Many researchers have conducted studies on analyzing characters in novels. It can be analyzed from its type (round and flat characters), representation (explanatory and dramatic), and also its psychology. As stated by Klarer (1999), psychological approach can be used to analyze characters psychologically. It can be seen in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel that written by Jhon Green, published in January 2012.

The Fault In Our Stars is one of the most famous novels in Indonesia and also in another country. It is a fabulous book about young teenage girl who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and a boy who has osteosarcoma, a rare form of born cancer, but has recently had the all clear. From the story in this novel, there are the optimism and pessimism that happen in the main characters.

Abdel khaleq (2000) defines optimism by that it is a rejoicing view of the future, making the person expects better, anticipates occurrence of goodness, and looks forward for success. While pessimism is a negative anticipation of the events to come, making the person expects worst things to happen, and anticipates badness, failure and disappointment.

Seligman further defined optimism and pessimism as “how people interpret themselves in cases of successes and failures” (Seligman, 1990). Optimistic people see that failure is due to some changeable thing, so as to be able to succeed in the next time. On the other hand, pessimistic people burden themselves with blame.

Scheier and Carver (1985: 260-261) have defined optimism as a generalized expectancy that good as opposed to bad outcomes will generally occur when confronted with problems across important life domains. It is a strong expectation that despite the inevitable setbacks and frustrations, events and experiences will eventually turn out all right. The example which shows the optimism from the novel:

“Don’t worry, worry is useless”. (*Chapter 5, page 28, line 52*).

The sentence above shows that Hazel thinks about the PET scan and tries not to worry about it. Eventhough she knows that it will be hurt, she keeps calm and tells to herself that there is no need to worry about the PET scan.

Pessimism is an entrenched habit of mind that has swept and disastrous consequences: depression mood, resignation, underachievement and even unexpectedly poor physical health. In Seligman states in his 1995 book *The Optimistic Child*. The example which shows the optimism from the novel:

“I’m a grenade. I just want to stay away from people and read books and think and be with you guys because there’s nothing I can do about hurting; you’re too invested, so just please let me do that, okay? I’m not depressed. I don’t need to get out more. And I can’t be

a regular teenager, because I'm a grenade." (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 61-63*).

The sentence above shows pessimism that happened in Hazel Grace. She says that she is a grenade because she thinks when she died, her parents and people around her will be hurt. So, she decides to stay away from people and only reads the books until she dies and she also think that every single thing that she did is just hurt her parents.

Optimism and pessimism in prior literature have been consistently associated with generalized expectancies of positive and negative future outcomes (Schier and Carver, 1985). Simply stated, people view the world in different ways. Some people see the world through rose colored glasses, they tend to have a favorable outlook on life. These optimistic individuals expect good things rather than bad things to happen to them (Scheier and Carver, 1985). On the other hand, some people see the world through dark colored glasses and have unfavorable outlook on life. These pessimistic individuals expect bad outcomes (Schier and Carver, 1985). In general, optimism and pessimism is considered a personality characteristics.

According to P. Chelladurai (2006: 66), personality characteristics create the parameters for people's behavior, they give us a framework for predicting behavior. For instance, individuals who are shy, introverted, and uncomfortable in social situations would probably submissive and conforming might not be effective as advertising "idea" people.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the researcher identifies the following problems, they are:

- a. What dominant type of optimism and pessimism are used by Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel?
- b. How are optimism and pessimism coded by Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel?
- c. Why are the optimism and pessimism coded is the ways they are?

C. The Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the purposes of this study are :

- a. To find out what is the dominant type of optimism and pessimism in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.
- b. To describe how the optimism and pessimism effect in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.

D. The Scope of Limitation

This study is limited to the main character as found in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel, namely Hazel Grace.

E. The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to bring the benefit and the advantages for the readers. This tudy has theoretical and practical significance as follows:

- a. Theoretically, to give some contribution to those who are interested in the field of the literature.
- b. Practically, to be come references of other researcher in learning optimism and pessimism.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Theoretical Framework

1. Literature

Literature has been widely known by many people. The Latin word “litteratura” is derived from “littera” (letter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing, Klarer (2004: 1). Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word, Klarer (2004: 1).

Literature can be classified to fiction or non-fiction and whether it is poetry or prose; it can be further distinguished according to major forms such as novel, short story or drama; and works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations.

Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works. Literature can be classified into three literary works, namely: prose, poetry, and drama.

a. Prose

Prose is a form of language that has no formal metrical structure. According to Samuel Coleridge (1835: 177), prose as words in their best order, where poetry is the best words in the best order. It applies a natural flow of speech, and ordinary grammatical structure rather than rhythmic structure, such as in the case of traditional poetry. Traditional forms of poetry follow exact patterns of rhymes and rhythms. Traditional poetry is also written in a meter. Meter is the

rhythm or the beat. The regular beat comes from the meter. Traditional poetry has been used to pass along news, tell stories, and sing songs, Sarah K.C. (2004: 165).

The term of prose originates from the Latin *prosa*, meaning “in phrase” which was derived from *prosa oratio*, meaning “straight, direct, unadorned speech.” This phrase was derived from *prorsus* meaning “straightforward or direct” and can be further traced to *pro versus*, meaning “turned forward”, Wendy Martin (2002: 78).

Prose comprises of full grammatical sentences which consist of paragraphs and forgoes aesthetic appeal in favor of clear, straightforward language. It can be said to be the most reflective of conversational speech. Some work of prose do have versification and a blend of the two formats that is called prose and poetry.

Prose connotes spoken or written discourse that is not patterned into metric or free verse. To put it simply, prose is writing or speech that is not poetry.

Prose refers simply to any written piece of work that is built on sentences (and paragraph) rather than lines or verses (like poetry). Example or kinds of prose include novels, short stories, essays, letters, editorials, articles, and journals.

Barry (1995: 39) says that characteristics of prose can be broken into four categories, divided by purposes:

- a. Narrative: writing which tells a story (can be fiction or non-fiction); usually told in chronological order; has character; follows the basic plot-line – exposition, rising action climax, and falling action.
- b. Expository: gives basic information; used often in speeches and essays; does not tell a story or argue.

- c. Descriptive: describes something in detail, again without telling a story or arguing a point; used most often in combination with another mode of writing, but alone is often found in scientific or medical reports.
- d. Persuasive: argues a point (or two sides of a questions); gives evidence in favor or against.

Barry (1995: 39) says that there are a variety of different types of prose, these include:

- a. Nonfictional prose: a piece of writing based on fact. Examples include autobiographies, biographies, and non-fiction essays.
- b. Fictional prose: imaginative writing. Examples include novels, parables, short stories, and most drama.
- c. Heroic prose: writing based on the formulaic expressions found in oral traditional. Examples include legends and fables.
- d. Prose poetry: a literary work which exhibits poetic quality using emotional effects and heightened imagery but are written in prose instead of verse.

b. Novel

Novel is one of literature products that is very familiar in human life. People like to read novels because they can enchant them with the story or the imagination that is written in them. A novel is the imagination of the writer that is composed by the writer into a written story. Scott (1980: 196) states that a novel is

a fictitious prose narrative dealing with human beings and their actions over a period of time, displaying varieties of human character in relation to life.

A novel deals with human life, feeling, thoughts, struggle, etc. It can reflect human life whether that is in the same situation of how they live or in quite different situations. In a novel, the writer can use the love or hatred or the struggle of a person as his/her novel.

In a novel, the readers not only can find the philosophical value or the moral teaching, but also other lessons about the aspects of life. A novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may be defined as the art of craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both, *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* (1768: 116)

The most important elements of novel are plot, characters, point of view, and setting. Plot, the first elements which make the original situation presented at the beginning of a story undergoes a change. Usually, plot consists of four chronological levels, such exposition, complication, climax or turning point, and resolution, Klarer (1999: 15).

The second one is characters. In general, there are two kinds of characters: flat and round characters. Flat characters have one specific trait while round characters have various features, Klarer (1999: 17).

Point of view, studies the way a texts presents person, events, and settings. The three types of point of view are the following: omniscient point of view, first person narration, and figural narrative situation, Klarer (1999: 21).

The last one is setting, which refers to the location, historical period, and social surroundings of a story, Klarer (1999: 25).

Barry (1995: 49) states there are some characteristics of a novel, such as:

- a. Created from the author's imagination
- b. Structured for the convenience of the readers.
- c. Violence is toned down.
- d. No longer homeostatic.

2. Optimism

Optimists are people that hope the good things will happen to them. Optimism is the opposite of pessimism, while pessimism is a feeling of helplessness.

Scheier and Carver (1985) expand the definition of optimism/pessimism beyond just generalized expectations of future outcomes to include explanations of how past successes and failures contribute to how these expectations develop in individuals. That optimism is an overall view, see a good thing, think positively and easy to give meaning to themselves. Individuals who are optimistic are able to produce something better than the past, not afraid of failure, and trying to still challenge another try when failed again.

Scheier and Carver (1985) have defined optimism as a generalized expectancy that good as opposed to bad outcomes will generally occur when confronted with problems across important life domains. It is a strong expectation

that despite the inevitable setbacks and frustrations, events and experiences will eventually turn out all right.

In general optimism is used to denote a positive attitude and is a part of positive psychology. Optimism can be temperamental, that is, some people by nature are more positive about life, but at the same time it can be also learned with the right type of experiences.

According to the concept of learned optimism, proposed by Seligman (2010), optimism can be enhanced by selecting achievable goals. Optimistic statements are usually based on the logical and concrete facts and depend upon the explanatory styles of a person. According to Goleman that cited by Ghufron and Rini (2013) saw the optimism through the view of emotional quotient, that is someone's self defense in order not to fall to the foolishness, desperation, and depression when they face any difficulties.

Scheier and Carver (2010: 879) state that there are some characteristic of optimism, they are:

- a. Never give up with something.
- b. Does not fear to take chances.
- c. Always have faith in whatever happens.
- d. Never get disappointed quickly.
- e. Always try to see only the positive out of everything.
- f. Finds all the possible ways in any problem available to solve anything.
- g. Self-confidence is the key.
- h. Overcomes anything easily.

- i. Be a motivation factor.
- j. Finds all goodness.
- k. Gives happiness to him/herself and others.
- l. Hopes for the best always.

There are two types of optimism, explanatory style optimism and dispositional optimism. That types can be describe how the optimism effect to the someone's life.

a. Explanatory Style Optimism

Explanatory style optimism is a psychological attribute that indicates how people explain to themselves why they experience a particular event, either positive or negative, or in another word the way people mentally explain the things that happen to them Seligman (1995: 303) describe optimistic explanatory style as a predisposition to view good outcomes as externally caused. An optimistic explanatory style has been found to be associated with good outcomes in health and achievement.

Seligman (1991) regards explanatory style optimism as a learned reaction and believes that people can be trained in behavioral techniques in order to substitute optimistic responses for pessimistic responses to stressful events.

In contrast, the explanatory style optimism view of optimism taps into the immediate reactive optimistic or pessimistic tendencies, which explain events and contribute to a person's general optimistic or pessimistic coping response going forward.

For example: we do not blame ourselves 100% for things that go wrong and we realize there are other external influences on what happens.

b. Dispositional Optimism

Dispositional optimism can be defined as an expectation that more good and desirable things will happen than bad things will happen to us in the future (Scheier & Carver, 1985). This is an expectation and hope that can also be a part of someone's personality traits, as there are some people who are inherently more optimistic than pessimistic.

Scheier and Carver (1992) wrote that optimism "confers benefits on what people do and what people are able to achieve in times of adversity." They believe that "people are greatly influenced by their expectations about certain actions." They explain that people who view desirable outcomes as possible seek to obtain those outcomes even when pursuit of those outcomes difficult. On other hand, people who view desirable outcomes as impossible or unattainable tend to cease from trying to obtain those outcomes.

Scheier and Carver (1985) call this specific type of global expectancy dispositional optimism and defined it as "the tendency to believe that one will generally experience good vs. bad outcomes in life." Dispositional optimism is often measured using the Life Orientation Test (LOT; Scheier & Carver, 1985) which is a measure of expectation. An optimistic expectation leads to the belief that goals can be attained however it does not specify how these goals will be attained.

For example: be optimistic because we have great confidence in our abilities or because we believe other people like and look out for us.

3. Pessimism

Pessimism is an entrenched habit of mind that has sweeping and disastrous consequences: depression mood, resignation, underachievement and even unexpectedly poor physical health.” Seligman states in his 1995 book *The Optimistic Child*.

Scheier and Carver (2010: 879) said that are some characteristic of pessimism, they are:

- a. Give up easily.
- b. Fears to take the next step.
- c. Loses faith easily.
- d. Gets disappointed quickly on the first failure.
- e. Never see anything positive.
- f. Finds no way in any problem.
- g. Self-pity is the key.
- h. Regrets everything and develops hatred.
- i. Be a discouraging factor.
- j. Finds all faults.
- k. Destroys happiness within him/herself and others around.
- l. Hopes doubt in everything.

There are two types of pessimism, defensive pessimism and dispositional pessimism. That types can be describe how the pessimism effect to the someone's life.

a. Defensive Pessimism

Defensive pessimism is a strategy used by anxious people to help them manage their anxiety so they can work productively. Defensive pessimism lower their expectations to help prepare themselves for the worst. Then, they mentally play through all the bad things that might happen.

Defensive pessimism show an initial feeling of anxiety and low perceived control prior to undertaking the ask (Norem & Cantor, 1986). By contrast, optimist do not make a stressful assessment of the tasks they are about to undertake, showing moderate control over the situation.

However, optimists and defensive pessimist show similar levels of performance. This is because defensive pessimists focus on the negative adpects of the situations, whereby they can control anxiety beforehand so it does not affect task performance (Showers, 1992).

For example: bereavement or severe illness. They focus on everyday thoughts, feelings, and motivations such as how a person deals with feeling anxious before giving a speech or meeting a blind date.

b. Dispositional Pessimism

Dispositional pessimism, like defensive pessimism, anticipate negative results. Nonetheless, each one of their performances differs. Dispositional pessimism show less perceived control, which means they do not engage in the

behavior required for achieving their goals. According to Dr. Jeffery Rossman (2010), dispositional pessimism is the tendency to believe the worst on a consistent basis.

This generates a feeling of helplessness that makes these individuals focus more on their limitations for performing the tasks, generating a spiral of anxiety that overwhelms them, and which increase over time (Hammontree & Ronan, 1992; Norem & Chang, 2002; Showers & Ruberns, 1990). Accordingly, dispositional pessimism differ also from optimism, as the letter avoid considering undersired results that may compromise their positive perception and control of the situation (Spencer & Norem, 1996).

For example: the causes were internal to you, they won't change over time, and they'll affect everything. They focus to the general tendency to have negative expectations about future events.

4. Biography of Jhon Green

Jhon Green is a recent popular name in the American young adult fiction. He is also an avid video blogger who has published numerous videos online. *The Fault In Our Stars* is considered to be his outstanding by far along with other notables.

Jhon Michael Green was born on August 24, 1997, to Mike and Sydney in Indianapolis. He received his early education from Lake Highland Preparatory School and Indian Springs School. His experience of school was similar to other social outcast who get bullied by arrogant people. He earned double graduation degrees in English and Religious Studies from Kenyon College. He worked as a

student chaplain after graduation in a children's hospital. His initial aim was to become an Episcopal priest.

However, the time he spent among children with terminal-illness stimulated him to become a writer. Afterwards, he worked as a publishing assistant for *Booklist*, a book review journal. Green wrote numerous reviews on literary fictions mostly concerning conjoined twins or religion of Islam.

While working as a critique, he also began writing his debut *Looking for Alaska*. Eventually, he had his project completed and published by 2005. It is a coming-of-age romance novel about a teen Miles. The novel is inspired by Green's time at Indian Springs. Unlike other YA writers, Green has broadened the horizon of YA novel's matter. He introduced more philosophical approach to the issues in a teenager's life. The unorthodox form and content of the novel had it earned the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award in 2006. The book made a record staying at New York Times best seller list for the span 7 years.

Subsequently, Green penned a second novel in 2006 titled, *An Abundance of Katherines*. It was another successful publication which was able to garner runner-up position for the Printz Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize's finalist stand. His next novel published in 2008, *Paper Town*, was also received with the same enthusiasm as its predecessors. There was a promise of a film adaptation of the book which he accepted.

However, later Green realized book's worth and feared the movie's failure to capture its essence would fail his dedicated readers. Thus, he pulled out of the

adaptation contract. Moreover, following the success of his literary work. Green quit his job at *Booklist* as a critique with intention of working as a professional writer.

The years to come brought Green achievement of his lifetime in the form of *The Fault In Our Stars*. It was the highest grossing novel of 2012. The novel is about a teen Hazel with a terminal lung cancer, who keeps waiting for the sword to fall. Unlike other kids she didn't have much to aspire for until she meets Augustus who had once suffered from cancer himself. A sudden twist of fate takes them on a trip to Amsterdam and the journey changes everything for them.

Green has masterfully sketched the plot in which he made certain at the beginning there is no happy-ending but there is hope. He expands the limitation of YA novel by discussing mature subject matter. Green philosophically and wittily approaches the theme of grief, pain, death, oblivion, and other serious subjects. Moreover, he profusely infuse the literary allusions in the novel giving it a more sophisticated form.

The Fault In Our Stars has now been adapted for big-screen; releasing in June 2014 Jhon Green 's works in collaboration with other writers include *Let It Snow: Three Holiday Romances* (2008) and *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (2010).

5. The Fault In Our Stars Novel

a. Synopsis

The Fault In Our Stars is a novel by author Jhon 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 has a type of cancer that causes him to lose his leg and wear a prosthetic, it also has a survival rate that is so 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 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.

Augustus joins Hazel's pursuit of the book's author, Peter Van Houten, to provide the answer 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.

b. Summary

The story takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana, where a sixteen-year-old girl named Hazel Grace Lancaster has cancer but is reluctant to attend cancer patient support groups. On the orders of his mother, he went to the support group. Because of cancer, she uses a portable oxygen tube to breathe properly. In one of the support group meetings, he made eye contact with a young man who turned out to be named Augustus Waters. He was there to support his friend Isaac. Isaac had a tumor in one of his eyes that had to be operated on, making him blind. After the meeting ended, Augustus approached Hazel and said he looked like Natalie Portman in *V for Vendetta*. He invited Hazel to his home to watch a movie while discussing their experiences with cancer. Hazel reveals he has thyroid cancer that has spread to his lungs. Augustus has osteosarcoma, but he is now free of cancer after his legs are amputated. Before Augustus drove Hazel home, they agreed to read each other's favorite novels. Augustus lends Hazel a novel entitled *The Price of Dawn*, and Hazel recommends a novel entitled *An Imperial Affliction*.

Hazel explains the greatness of *An Imperial Affliction*: This is a novel about a girl named Anna who has cancer, and that's the only way she understands life with cancer that matches her experience. He described how the novel ended in the middle of a sentence with great annoyance, imagining a cover story about the fate of this novel character. He speculates about the mysterious writer of this novel, Peter Van Houten, who fled to Amsterdam after the novel was published and has not been heard since.

A week after Hazel and Augustus discussed the literary meaning of the contents of *An Imperial Affliction*, Augustus miraculously reveals that he succeeded in tracking down the whereabouts of Van Houten's assistant Lidewij and through Lidewij, Augustus managed to start email correspondence with Van Houten who likes to be alone. He told the contents of Van Houten's email to Hazel, and Hazel made a list of questions to send to Van Houten, hoping to clear up the ambiguous conclusions of the novel. Hazel is the most concerned with Anna's mother's fate. He thinks that if Anna's mother survives with the death of her daughter, then her own parents will be fine after Hazel dies. Van Houten finally replied, saying he can only answer Hazel's question personally. He invited him to stop by if he was in Amsterdam. Shortly after Augustus took Hazel for a picnic, he turned out to be planning an elaborate themed picnic where he revealed that a charitable foundation granted the wishes of children with cancer had agreed to give it: he took two of them to go to Amsterdam to meet Van Houten. Hazel was happy, but when she touched her face she had some reason to feel hesitant. Over time he realizes that he likes Augustus, but he knows he will hurt Augustus when he dies. He compares himself to a grenade.

In the midst of his struggle over what he had to do about Augustus, Hazel suddenly got a serious case where his lungs were filled with fluid and he was forced to be taken to ICU. When he realized, he knew that Augustus never left the hospital waiting room. Augustus gave Hazel another letter from Van Houten, this one more personal and more vague than the last. After reading the letter, Hazel was more convinced than ever to go to Amsterdam. There is a problem though:

his parents and his team of doctors think Hazel is not strong enough to travel. The situation seemed just like a hope until one of the doctors who understood the case best, dr. Maria, convinces parents that Hazel that Hazel should make this trip because she needs to live her life. Plans made for Augustus, Hazel, and Mother Hazel to go to Amsterdam went well. But when Hazel and Augustus met Van Houten they learned that Van Houten was not a genius prolific writer, but a cruel drunkard and claimed he could not answer Hazel's question. Both were disappointed and left Van Houten. They said, and accompanied by Lidewij, who was horrified by Van Houten's behavior, they toured Anne Frank's house. At the end of the tour, Augustus and Hazel share a romantic kiss, with applause from the audience. They returned to the hotel where they made love for the first and last time.

c. Bibliography

The Fault in Our Stars is John Green's sixth novel. Green drew inspiration from his time working as a chaplain at a children's hospital and from his friendship with Esther Earl, a friend of Green's to whom the book is dedicated.

The book was released in January 2012, but it had already reached #1 on Amazon and Barnes & Noble's bestseller lists 6 months before, in June 2011, due to Green's (largely online) following. Green promised to sign every pre-ordered book, and did so in different colors of Sharpie proportional to votes on Sharpie colors sent in online. Once published, *The Fault in Our Stars* held the #1 spot on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for Children's Chapter Books for seven weeks as well as placing first or within the top ten on a variety of other bestseller

lists, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *The Guardian*. There are over 1 million copies of the book in print in at least 10 languages.

Critics received *The Fault in Our Stars* very well, touting its humor, language, and perspective. Many other YA fiction authors, including Jodi Picoult, Markus Zusak, and E. Lockhart, also applauded Green's novel. However, one notably negative review from the *Daily Mail* describes *The Fault in Our Stars* as exploiting the stories of ill young adults, though Green responded to this claim in a later interview by saying the idea that young adults can't read critically is condescending.

A film adaptation of the book, also called *The Fault in Our Stars*, was released on June 6, 2014, directed by Josh Boone and starring Shailene Woodley (Hazel), Ansel Elgort (Augustus), and Nat Wolff (Isaac). The film too was popularly and critically successful, becoming number one at the box office during its opening weekend and receiving a 80% critic vote and 85% popular vote on rottentomatoes.com. Differences between the book include the elimination of the characters Caroline (Augustus's former girlfriend) and Kaitlyn (Hazel's school friend), increased rapidity in Gus's illness, and a scene in which Gus shows up to Hazel's house in a limousine.

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Page Count: 318

Age Range: Young Adults grades 9 and up

6. The Character of Hazel Grace in *The Fault In Our Stars* Novel

Hazel was born on September 29th 1996 with the complete name, Hazel Grace Lancaster. She is aged seventeen, has no siblings and is the daughter to Mr. And Mrs. Lancaster, friend of Isaac and girlfriend of Augustus Waters.

Hazel finished high school early and has already begun pursuing a college education. She is diagnosed with stage 4 Thyroid cancer with metastasis forming in her lungs, but has managed to live with her disease owing doses of an experimental drug called Phalanxifor.

It is immediately obvious that Hazel isn't the typical teenager girl from Indianapolis. She is conscientiously speaking old for her age, as we see when she's contrasted with her friend Kaitlyn. By comparison, Hazel is far more thoughtful and considerate about her actions than Kaitlyn, and she is far more analytical. One of Hazel's defining characteristics is her wish to tread lightly upon the world. She desperately wants to mitigate the harm caused by her existence on Earth. Though this outlook on life is dramatically different from Augustus's, over the course of the novel the teens are able to learn a lot from one another.

Hazel Grace has a good sense of humor but keeps a lot to herself. She lives her life trying not to hurt others. She does not want to get too close to anyone so that when she dies no one will be hurt. Hazel Grace is very real with herself, she knows that she has cancer and that is the way that her life has to be lived.

Through her relationship with Augustus, however, Hazel's perspective changes. When his cancer reappears, she recognizes that, of the two of them, he is know the grenade. But even so, she isn't sorry she falls in love with him, even

though it will hurt her immensely when he dies. Instead, she cherishes and feels extremely grateful for the time they do have together. The final words of the novel indicate the extent to which Hazel grows spiritually throughout her journey. The implication of the words “I do” are of a marriage that takes place through memory. Though the marriage is symbolic, it’s nevertheless real. What Hazel means by saying “I do” is that she will remember and love Augustus for as long as she lives, and in that sense she has learned that death is not the ubiquitous finality she has once considered it to be. Our relationships continue, even if we do not.

B. Relevant Studies

Fiona Parashar, 2009 in her journal entitled “*The Psychology of Optimism and Pessimism: Theory and Research Findings*” reviewing the field of optimism is at first struck by the overwhelming number of positive outcomes associated with optimism and then by the wishperread propensity that humans have for optimism or for positive bias in their outlook on life and their self assessment.

Zohair, 2013 in his journal entitled “*The Relationship between Optimism-Pessimism and Personality Traits among Students in the Hashemite University*” analyze the correlation between optimism, pessimism and personality traits (extraversion, introversion, emotional stability, and neuroticism), also identify the prevalence of optimism and pessimism in the study sample according to the variable sex, academic specialization, level of study, and grade point average.

Simin, 2015 in his journal entitled “*Study of Relationship between Optimism, Pessimism and Coping Strategies with Mental Health among University Student of Lorestan*” determine the relationship between optimism, pessimism and coping strategies and mental health and ability to predict these concepts in students mental health in the academic year 2014 in Lorestan University. The method of the study is correlational and data are analyzed using the stepwise regression.

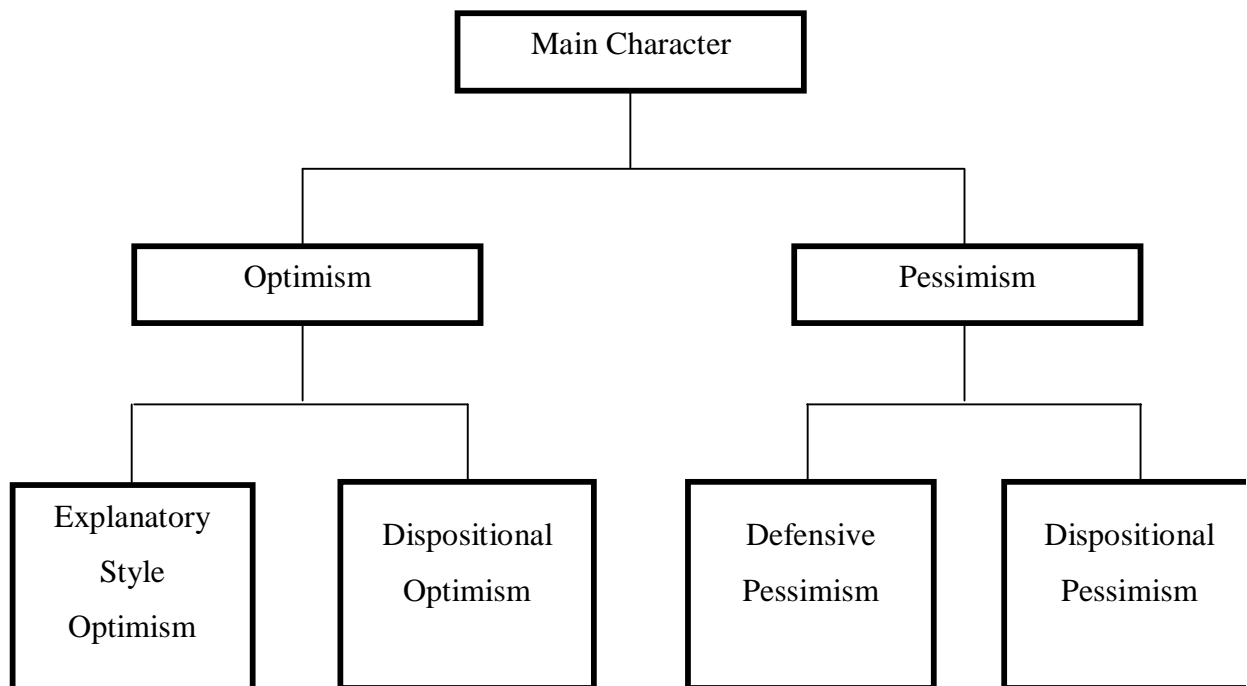
Pipit, 2013 in her thesis entitled “*Aspek Pendidikan Nilai Religius dan Optimisme dalam Hapalan Solat Delissa*” analyze the aspect of religious and the optimism in Delissa as the main character after she lost her legs and her legs and her mother because of Tsunami in Aceh. The data of the main character is collected by finding the evidences from the dialogue or sentences in the novel and based behavior and the attitude of the main character. To get the aspect of religious and the optimism, she analyze by using qualitative descriptive technique.

Anggun, 2013 in her thesis entitled “*Optimism and Pessimism in Negeri Lima Menara by Ahmad Fuadi to Increase the Motivation to Student in MI Level*” deals with optimism and pessimism to increase the motivation to the student based on the age of the student. The writer explain the optimism and pessimism in Negeri Lima Menara novel by Ahmad Fuadi. To get the optimism and pessimism from the novel, the writer used the document analysis method.

C. Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework has been designed based on the literature reviews and the hypothesis of this research. This conceptual framework interprets the optimism and pessimism in Hazel Grace as the main character in *The Fault In Our Stars* novel by Jhon Green. Like all other human experiences, optimism and pessimism are closely related to the psychology.

The conceptual framework of this study is illustrated as in tree diagrams as follows:



The explanation of tree diagram above: this study focuses on the analysis of optimism and pessimism varieties on main character in *The Fault In Our Stars* novel based on the psychology of the main character itself. It means that this study

deals with optimism and pessimism. To know the optimism and pessimism varieties on main character, the researcher try to analysis the optimism and pessimism proposed by Scheier & Carver and to relate the optimism and pessimism varieties on main character The Fault In Our Stars novel based on the psychology of the main character itself, they are: explanatory optimism, dispositional optimism, defensive pessimism and dispositional pessimism.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

This study was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative design. Moleong (2007: 6) states that qualitative research is conducted to understand the phenomena experienced by research subject, such as behavior, perception, motivation, action and so on, holistically in descriptive way, in the form or words and language, in a particular naturalistic context using several naturalistic methods.

B. Source of Data

The source of the data was from the novel written by Jhon Green entitled *The Fault In Our Stars*. The data was collected from the dialogues or sentences utterances by Hazel Grace as the main character which supports the optimism and pessimism in the novel. The dialogues or sentences by the main character which found in the novel (89 pages) become the source of the data in completing this study.

C. The Technique for Collecting the Data

The data was collected from the texts of the novel itself. Reading the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by Jhon Green was the beginning of the process of collecting the data. The data in this study was collected by using documentary technique. It means the writer collected the information by reading, studying and

analyzing the related theory from certain books and journals around the object of the study. The data was collected from Jhon Green's *The Fault In Our Stars* novel. Besides, some information from text books and internet which are relevant to the problem are also referred in order to support this study.

D. The Technique for Analyzing the Data

After reading the novel for several times until its full meaning can be understood, the procedures for analyzing the data will be continued by the following steps:

1. Identifying the sentences or dialogues that give information about optimism and pessimism of Hazel Grace as the main character.
2. Classifying the sentences or dialogues based on the characteristic optimism and pessimism according by Scheier and Carver's theory.
3. Giving the explanations and reasons to conclude the story as the whole discussion.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS

A. Data

The data of this research were statements which indicated Hazel Grace's sentences or dialogues in shows the optimism and pessimism by herself. The data were taken from the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

B. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, they were analyzed by focusing on the optimism and pessimism in Hazel Grace as the main character from this novel based on Scheier and Carver's theory about the optimism and pessimism.

1. Hazel Grace's Optimism

Hazel Grace is 16 year old who has cancer; more specifically thyroid with mets in her lungs. She is always said that she is fine about her illness and she always tries to be optimistic about life and struggles for her illness. Hazel Grace shows the new hope in her life and keeps strong and move on. Some sentences and dialogues that shows the optimism categorized by Scheier and Carver's theory:

a. Never give up with something.

"I thought of the PET scan. Don't worry. Worry is useless." (*Chapter 5, page 28, line 52*).

Hazel thinks about the PET scan and tries not to worry about it. Even though she knows that it will be hurt, she keeps calm and tells herself that there is no need to worry about the PET scan.

“But I’d had a total body PET scan on the first night in the hospital, they told me, and the news was good no tumor growth. No new tumors.”
(*Chapter 7, page 34, line 23-24*).

The sentences above that there is no tumor growth and no new tumors in Hazel Grace. It is because Hazel already fights her illness with her patience and her conviction.

b. Does not fear to take chances.

“I even tried to tell myself to live my best life today.” (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 31-32*).

From that sentence we know that Hazel tries to be the best for her life and also for her parents whatever happens.

“People talk about the courage of cancer patients, and I do not deny that courage. I had been poked and stabbed and poisoned for years, and still I trod on. But make no mistake: In that Moment, I would have been very, very, very happy to die.” (*Chapter 7, page 34, line 9-10*).

In that sentence, Hazel tells people who talk about the courage of cancer patients do not deny that courage because she is brave enough to undergo the treatment for her cancer for years. Although she will die during her treatment for her cancer, she says that she will be happy to die. She says she does not mean that

she wants to give up with her condition, but she thinks that if she will die, she will be happy for another life without her cancer.

c. Always have faith in whatever happens.

“(Which meant there was quite a lot of competitiveness about it with everybody wanting to beat not only cancer itself, but also the other people in the room. Like, I realize that this is irrational, but when they tell you that you have, say, a 20 percent chance of living five years, the math kicks in and you figure that’s one in five . . . so you look around and think, as any healthy person would: I gotta outlast four of these bastards.)” (*Chapter 1, page 9, line 28-31*).

Because of Hazel’s conviction and persistence, she can fight her cancer. She is not scared of that cancer, and she is certain to live with her cancer.

“I’m not depressed.” (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 62*).

Actually, Hazel feels depressed because of the PET scan and feels so scared if the PET scan will be fail, but Hazel keeps trying not to worry about it and tells to herself and also to everyone that she is not depressed.

d. Never get disappointed quickly.

“I’m Hazel, I’d say when they’d get to me. Sixteen. Thyroid originally but with an impressive and long-settled satellite colony in my lungs. And I’m doing okay.” (*Chapter1, page 9, line 23-24*).

From that sentence we know that Hazel Grace tries to accept the truth that she is diagnosed by thyroid cancer when she is thirteen. Eventhough it is very hurt

for her, she keeps telling to everyone that she is okay and she can live with her cancer.

“It would take me six days to get home, six undays of staring at acoustic ceiling tile and watching television and sleeping and pain and wishing for time to pass. I did not see Augustus or anyone other than my parents. My hair looked like a bird’s nest; my shuffling gait like a dementia patient’s. I felt a little better each day, though: Each sleep ended to reveal a person who seemed a bit more like me. Sleep fights cancer, Regular Dr. Jim said for the thousandth time as he hovered over me one morning surrounded by a coterie of medical students.” (*Chapter 7, page 34, line 44-47*).

Hazel tries not disappointed to stay in the hospital for several day because she is sure that it for herself. She just past the times with sleep and eat, and it makes her happy.

e. Always try to see only the positive out of everything.

“I banished the thought as best I could. I had a PET scan scheduled in a couple weeks. If something was wrong, I’d find out soon enough. Nothing to be gained by worrying between now and then.” (*Chapter 5, page, 24, line 13-14*).

From that sentence above we know that Hazel tries not to worry about her PET scan, because she is sure that everything will be alright and she will be recover as usual.

“I actually had a great time on that trip. I met Goofy and Minn.” (*Chapter 5, page 29, line 37*).

Because of meet Goofy and Minny, Hazel feels so happy and everything looks like amazing.

f. Finds all the possible ways in any problem available to solve anything.

“I didn’t want to take the elevator because taking the elevator is a Last Days kind of activity at Support Group, so I took the stairs.” (*Chapter 1, page 10, line 11*).

Because of Hazel knowing her illness so well, she cannot want to take the risk to use the elevator. Because of using the elevator means that murder herself, so she uses the lift.

“This is so great. If I’m dead, I want you to know I will be sighing at you from heaven every time you ask someone to share their feelings.” (*Chapter 24, page 83, line 35-36*).

From that sentence we know that Hazel wants to sigh and be useful for people around her who always support her, especially for her beloved parents. She is optimistic to make people around her and also her parents happy eventhough she is going to die later.

g. Self-confidence is the key.

“I woke up and soon got into one of those experimental trials that are famous in the Republic of Cancervania for Not Working. The drug was Phalanxifor, this molecule designed to attach itself to cancer cells and slow their growth. It didn’t work in about 70 percent of people. But it worked in me. The tumors shrank.” (*Chapter 2, page 13, line 38-40*).

Hazel feels confident because her therapy was success and her tumors shrank. It did not work in about 70 percent of people, but it works in Hazel.

“And they stayed shrunk. Huzzah, Phalanxifor! In the past eighteen months, my mets have hardly grown, leaving me with lungs that suck at being lungs but could, conceivably, struggle along indefinitely with the assistance of drizzled oxygen and daily Phalanxifor.” (*Chapter 2, page 13, line 41-42*).

The tumors shrank, and it makes Hazel and also her parents happy. There is no new tumors. The therapy success because Phalanxifor. And Hazel believe that she will be alright.

h. Overcomes anything easily.

“And if the inevitability of human oblivion worries you, I encourage you to ignore it. God knows that’s what everyone else does.”(*Chapter 1, page 11, line 2-3*).

Hazel tries to ignore the inevitability of human oblivion after she dies. Because she thinks that everyone will forget about us after our death and God always knows what will happen before and after the death.

“Two things I love about this sculpture. First, the bones are just far enough apart that if you’re a kid, you *cannot resist the urge* to jump between them. Like, you just *have* to jump from rib cage to skull. Which means that, second, the sculpture essentially *forces children to play on bones*. The symbolic resonances are endless, Hazel Grace.” (*Chapter 5, page 29, line 25-28*).

Hazel tries to imagine a kids. Because kid can doing anything that they want. She thinks like that because she was saw the sculpture in the park with Augustus.

i. Be a motivation factor.

“I’s stood in the living room and then there had been the stairs, and then more standing, which was quite a lot of standing for me, and I didn’t want to faint or anything. I was a bit of a Victorian Lady, fainting-wise. I’m fine.”(*Chapter 2, page 14, line 50-51*).

Hazel tries no to say that she is okay to her parents and keeps enthusiasm to ruin herlife. She is not only motivates herself, but also her parent telling that she is fine.

“But I believe in true love, you know? I don’t believe that everybody gets to keep their eyes or not get sick or whatever, but everybody *should* have true love, and it should last at least as long as your life does.”(*Chapter 5, page 26, line 44-45*).

Hazel motivates herself and also her friend about true love because she knows that true love is real for everyone. Hazel thinks that everybody should have the true love and it should last at least as long as life does.

j. Finds all goodness.

“Cancer Perks are the little things cancer kids get that regular kids don’t: basketballs signed by sports heroes, free passes on late homework, unearned driver’s licenses, etc.”(*Chapter 2, page 13, line 12-13*).

Hazel thinks the superiority from the patient of cancer they can do anything whatever they want such as basketballs signed by sports heroes, free passes on late homework, unearned driver's licenses, etc, and it so funny.

“I wanted to not be a grenade, to not be a malevolent force in the lives of people I loved.”(*Chapter 11, page 49, line 35-36*).

From that sentence we know that Hazel does not want to be a grenade because of she does not want anyone around her feel sad about her death later, so she tries her best to fight her cancer and always keep smiling for her parents and also her boyfriend, Augustus Waters.

k. Gives happiness to him/herself and others.

“I wanted to make my parent happy.” (*Chapter 1, page 10, line 1*).

The statement above shows that Hazel Grace wants to make her parents happy having a daughter like her and every single thing that she did without worrying about her cancer. Eventhough she has a cancer it does not mean that she cannot make her parent happy.

“You are not a grenade, not to us. Thinking about you dying makes us sad, Hazel, but you are not a grenade. You are amazing. You can't know, sweetie, because you've never had a baby become brilliant young reader with a side interest in horrible television shows, but the joy you bring us is so much greater than the sadness we feel about your illness.” (*Chapter 6, page 32, line 37-40*).

The sentence above is the dialogues from Hazel's Mom. She tells to Hazel that Hazel is not a grenade and she is amazing. Her Mom said that because Hazel

thinks that she is a grenade and at some point she can blow up and she does not want to make her parents feel tragic.

1. Hopes for the best always.

“These young heroes wait stoically and without complaint for their one true wish to come along. Sure, it may never come along, but at least they can rest easily in the grave knowing that they’ve done their little part to preserve the integrity of the wish as an idea.” (*Chapter 5, page 29, line 44-45*).

The statement above shows that Hazel wishes something good for her life and tries not to complain about her cancer to people around her. She just hopes that everything will be alright, for her and also her parents.

“I hope our fearlessness shall be our secret weapon. The tales of our exploits will survive as long as the human voice itself. And even after that, when the robots recall the human absurdities of sacrifice and comparison, they will remember us.” (*Chapter 12, page 56, line 2-5*).

The statement above shows the hopes from Hazel Grace and her boyfriend, Augustus Waters. They hope that the fearlessness will be what makes people remember them because of their sacrifice and comparison of cancer.

2. Hazel Grace’s Pessimism

Hazel Grace’s pessimism is partially caused by her cancer. The other half side is just her personality and she has a past plagued by depression and sadness.

Some sentences and dialogues that shows her pessimism categorized by Scheier and Carver's theory :

a. Give up easily.

“Everyone was holding hands, and I couldn't catch my breath, and my lungs were acting desperate, gasping, pulling me out of the bed trying to find a position that could get them air, and I was embarrassed by their desperation, disgusted that they wouldn't just let go, and I remember my Mom telling me it was okay, that I would be okay, and my father was trying so hard not to sob that when he did, which was regularly, it was an earthquake. And I remember wanting not to be awake.” (*Chapter 2, page 13, line 32-35*).

The sentence above shows the pessimistic from Hazel when she is fourteen. Hazel's lungs starts to fill up with water and she ends up in the ICU with pneumonia. At that time, Hazel just wants to give up because she cannot breathe and she sees her father crying, it feels like an earthquake for her and she just wants not to be awake.

“I wish I would just die, Patrick. Do you ever wish you would just die?” (*Chapter 24, page 82, line 26*).

The dialogue above clearly indicates the pessimism from Hazel. Because she hopes she dies because she is a trouble maker for people around her and there is nothing that she can do. And she just hope to die soon.

b. Fears to take the next step.

“I refuse to attend Support Group.” (*Chapter 1, page 9, line 43*).

The sentence above shows that Hazel refuse to attend the Support Group because she is not sure the Support Group will be fun. And she cannot interact with other because she is not confident.

“I fear oblivion. I fear it like the proverbial blind man who’s afraid of the dark.” (*Chapter 1, page 10, line 54*).

The sentence above shows that Hazel is scared of oblivion from people around her. And she says that she is scared of it like the blind man who is afraid of the dark.

c. Loses faith easily.

“Generally, your parents pull you out of school at some point if they expect you to bite it.” (*Chapter 2, page 13, line 19*).

From the sentence above, actually we know that Hazel’s parents pull she out from her school because of her cancer. And her parents did not want something happened to Hazel.

“It always hurt not to breathe like a normal person, incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs, forcing yourself to accept as unsolvable the dawning scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation.” (*Chapter 3, page 18, line 46-47*).

Hazel always feel hurt because she cannot breathe like a normal person. It shows Hazel’s pessimistic because she always compares herself to another of it and always reminds herself to accept as unsolvable the dawning scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation.

d. Gets disappointed quickly on the first failure.

“It occurred to me that the reason my parents had no money was me. I’d sapped the family savings with Phalanxifor copays, and Mom couldn’t work because she had taken on the full time profession of Hovering Over Me. I didn’t want to put them even further into debt.” (*Chapter 5, page 27, line 34-35*).

Hazel thinks that her parents run out of money because of her and sapps the family savings with Phalanxifor copays, and her Mom cannot work because of her. It is all a burden for Hazel and she does not want to put her parents further into debt.

“Diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer when I was thirteen. It was, we were told, incurable.” (*Chapter 2, page 13, line 23-24*).

The sentence above shows the disillusion from Hazel and her parents when she is diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer when she was thirteen. And they more disappointed when they knows that the cancer is incurable.

e. Never see anything positive.

“The Support Group, of course, was depressing as hell.” (*Chapter 1, page 9, line 10*).

The dialogue above shows that Hazel hates the Support Group because she thinks that Support Group makes her depression.

“I’m not eating dinner, and I can’t stay healthy because I’m not healthy. I’m dying, Mom. I’m going to die and leave you here alone and you won’t

have a me to hover around and you won't be a mother anymore, and I'm sorry, but I can't do anything about it, okay?" (*Chapter 24, page 82, line 53-55*).

The dialogue above comes from Hazel when she bicker with her Mom. At that time her Mom asked her getting dinner, but Hazel refused it. And said that she is not healthy, she is dying, she will die and leave her Mom alone. It is very hurt for Hazel because she is getting frustated thinking about her illness that cannot be cured.

f. Finds no way in any problem.

"And yet still I worried. I liked being a person. I wanted to keep at it. Worry is yet another side effect of dying." (*Chapter 5, page 24, line 15*).

Hazel thinks that worry is another side of dying. She is always worrying something in herlife.

"I'm like. Like. I'm like a grenade, Mom. I'm a grenade and at some point I'm going to blow up and I would like to minimize the casualties, okay?" (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 58-59*).

Hazel considers herself like a grenade that can blow up anytime and it will be hurt for people around her especially her parents. And she does not want it happens because she feels she is a trouble for her parents that always make them feel sad.

g. Self-pity is the key.

"I'd sooner die." (*Chapter 2, page 18, line 31*).

The sentence above shows the pessimistic from Hazel because she is thinks will die soon because of her cancer and she expects that she cannot live longer.

“My shoulder hurt. I worried the cancer had spread from my lungs. I imagined the tumor metastasizing into my own bones, boring holes into my skeleton, a slithering eel of insidious intent.” (*Chapter 5, page 29, line 8-9*).

The sentence above shows the pessimistic from Hazel because she is scared that her cancer has spread from her lungs. And she is scared that she will die earlier eventhough she knows that she will die soon because of her cancer.

h. Regrets everything and develops hatred.

“It was a long list. The world contains a lot of dead people. And while Patrick droned on, reading the list from a sheet of paper because it was too long to memorize, I kept my eyes closed, trying to think prayerfully but mostly imagining the day when my name would find its way onto that list, all the way at the end when everyone had stopped listening.” (*Chapter 1, page 11, line 17-19*).

Hazel imagines when she dies her name will find onto that list that write as a death member and it makes Hazel sad and worries.

“To be with him was to hurt him inevitably. And that’s what I’d felt as he reached for me: I’d felt as though I were committing an act of violence against him, because I was.” (*Chapter 6, page 32, line 18-19*).

Hazel thinks that having a relationship with someone she loves is a mistake or a crime because of her illness or her death. She feels that she has hurt her beloved man. This shows the pessimism from Hazel that unbelieve of her own love.

i. Be a discouraging factor

“One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities.” (*Chapter 1, page 9, line 44*).

The sentence above shows the illness of activities from Hazel. She is always assumpts that its caused by cancer, she does not wants to try the activities like usual because of her depression.

“I want you guys to have a life. I worry that you won’t have a life, that you’ll sit around here all day with no me to look after and share at the walls and want to off yourselves.” (*Chapter 24, page 83, line 9-10*).

Hazel worries about her parents after her death later. She is worried whether her parents still have a life after she dies or not. In other words, if she die, she is worried whether her parents still can smile and run their life as usual without her.

j. Finds all faults.

“Sometimes people don’t understand the promises they’re making when they make them.” (*Chapter 4, page 22, line 46*).

Hazel tries not to believe with the promise that keeps by people around her for staying no matter what. She thinks that people do not understand about the promises they are making when they make them.

“They might be glad to have me around, but I was the alpha and the omega of my parents suffering.”(*Chapter 8, page 36, line 29-30*).

The sentence above describes that Hazel feels that her parents might be glad to have her as their daughter, but Hazel also feels that she was the beginning of her parents suffering. Because she is a trouble maker for her parents and also always makes them cry. And all of it will end when Hazel has died.

k. Destroys happiness within him/herself and others around.

“I’m not going on dates. I don’t want to go on dates with anyone. It’s a terrible idea and a huge waste time and-“ (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 56*).

The sentence above shows pessimism that happened in Hazel Grace. She thinks when she died, her parents and people around her will be hurt. So, she decides to stay away from people and only reads books until her death and she also thinks that every single thing that she does is just hurt her parents and wasting time.

“I’m grenade, I just want to stay away from people and read books and think and be with you guys because there’s nothing I can do about hurting you, you’re too instead, so just please let me do that, okay? I’m not depressed. I don’t need to get out more. And I can’t be a regular teenager, because I’m a grenade.” (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 61-63*).

The sentence above shows pessimism that happened in Hazel Grace. She said that she is grenade because she thinks when she died, her parents and people around her will be hurt. So, she decides to stay away from people and only reads

the books until she died and she also think that every single thing that she did is just hurt her parents.

1. Hopes doubt in everything.

“I wanted to make my parents happy. There is only one thing in this world shittier than biting it from cancer when you’re sixteen, and that’s having a kid who bites it from cancer.” (*Chapter 1, page 10, line 1-2*).

From that sentence we know that Hazel wants to make her parents happy but she cannot do that because she has a cancer and at some point she will die. She thinks that having a kid who will die because of cancer is hurt.

“I want to minimize the number of deaths I am responsible for.” (*Chapter 2, page 14, line 20*).

Hazel hopes that she can minimize the number of death because of cancer. Because she think she is responsible of it.

C. Research Findings

After analyzing the data, some findings were found as follows the optimism and pessimism from Hazel Grace in the novel. *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. It can be categorized based on the type according Quora’s theory, they are: optimism (explanatory style optimism and dispositional optimism) and pessimism (defensive pessimism and dispositional pessimism).

1. Hazel Grace’s Optimism

Types of Optimism	Frequency
Explanatory style optimism	10

Dispositional optimism	14
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Table 4.1. Hazel Grace Optimism

No.	Sentences/Dialogues of Optimism	Type of Optimism
1.	“I thought of the PET scan. Don’t worry. Worry is useless.” (<i>Chapter 5, Page 28, line 52</i>).	Dispositional optimism
2.	“But I’d had a total body PET scan on the first night in the hospital, they told me, and the news was good: no tumor growth. No new tumors.” (<i>Chapter 7, page 34, line 23-24</i>).	Explanatory style optimism
3.	“I even tried to tell myself to live my best life today.” (<i>Chapter 6, page 31, line 31-32</i>).	Dispositional optimism
4.	“People talk about the courage of cancer patients, and I do not deny that courage. I had been poked and stabbed and poisoned for years, and still I trod on. But make no mistake. In that Moment, I would have been very, very, very happy to die.” (<i>Chapter 7, page 34, line 9-10</i>).	Explanatory style optimism
5.	“(Which meant there was quite a lot of competitiveness about it, with everybody wanting to beat not only cancer itself, but also the other people in the room. Like, I realize that this is irrational, but when they tell you that you	Dispositional optimism

	have, say, a 20 percent chance of living five years, the math kicks in and you figure that's one in five . . . so you look around and think, as any healthy person would. I gotta outlast four of these bastards.)" (<i>Chapter 1, page 9, line 28-31</i>)	
6.	"I'm not depressed." (<i>Chapter 6, page 31, line 62</i>).	Explanatory style optimism
7.	"I'm Hazel, I'd say when they'd get to me. Sixteen. Thyroid originally but with an impressive and long settled satellite colony in my lungs. And I'm doing okay." (<i>Chapter 1, page 9, line 23-24</i>).	Explanatory style optimism
8.	"It would take me six days to get home, six undays of staring at acoustic ceiling tile and watching television and sleeping and pain and wishing for time to pass. I did not see Augustus or anyone other than my parents. My hair looked like a bird's nest; my shuffling gait like a dementia patient's. I felt a little better each day, though: Each sleep ended to reveal a person who seemed a bit more like me. Sleep fights cancer, Regular Dr. Jim said for the thousandth time as he hovered over me one	Explanatory style optimism

	morning surrounded by a coterie of medical student.” (<i>Chapter 7, page 34, line 44-47</i>).	
9.	“I banished the thought as best I could: I had a PET scan scheduled in a couple weeks. If something was wrong, I’d find out soon enough. Nothing to be gained by worrying between now and then.” (<i>Chapter 5, page 24, line 13-14</i>).	Dispositional optimism
10.	“I actually had a great time on that trip. I met Goofy and Minn” (<i>Chapter 5, page 29, line 37</i>).	Explanatory style optimism
11.	“I didn’t want to take the elevator because taking the elevator is a Last Days kind of activity at Support Group, so I took the stairs.” (<i>Chapter 1, page 10, line 11</i>).	Dispositional optimism
12.	“This is so great. If I’m dead, I want you to know I will be sighing at you from heaven every time you ask someone to share their feelings.” (<i>Chapter 24, page 83, line 35-36</i>).	Dispositional optimism
13.	“I woke up and soon got into one of those experimental trials that are famous in the Republic of Cancervania for Not Working. The drug was Phalanxifor, this molecule designed to attach itself to cancer cells and slow their growth. It didn’t work in about 70 percent of	Dispositional optimism

	people. But it worked in me. The tumors shrank.” (Chapter 2, page 13, line 38-40).	
14.	“And they stayed shrunk. Huzzah, Phalanxifor! In the past eighteen months, my mets have hardly grown, leaving me with lungs that sucks at being lungs but could, conceivably, struggle along indefinitely with the assistance of drizzled oxygen and daily Phalanxifor.” (Chapter 2, page 13, line 41-42).	Dispositional optimism
15.	“And if the inevitability of human oblivion worries you, I encourage you to ignore it. God knows that’s what everyone else does.” (Chapter 1, page 11, line 2-3).	Dispositional optimism
16.	“Two things I love about this sculpture. First, the bones are just far enough apart that if you’re a kid, you <i>cannot resist the urge</i> to jump between them. Like, you just <i>have</i> to jump from rib cage to skull. Which means that, second, the sculpture essentially <i>forces children to play on bones</i> . The symbolic resonances are endless, Hazel Grace.” (Chapter 5, page 29, line 25-28).	Explanatory style optimism
17.	“I stood in the living room and then there had been the stairs, and then more standing, which	Explanatory style optimism

	was quite a lot of standing for me, and I didn't want to faint or anything. I was a bit of a Victorian Lady, fainting wise. I'm fine." <i>(Chapter 2, page 14, line 50-51).</i>	
18.	"But I believe in true love, you know? I don't believe that everybody gets to keep their eyes or not get sick or whatever, but everybody <i>should</i> have true love, and it should last at least as long as your life does." <i>(Chapter 5, page 26, line 44-45).</i>	Dispositional optimism
19.	"I wanted to make my parents happy." <i>(Chapter 1, page 10, line 1).</i>	Dispositional optimism
20.	"Cancer Perks are the little things cancer kids get that regular kids don't: basketballs signed by sports heroes, free passes on late homework, unearned driver's licenses, etc." <i>(Chapter 2, page 13, line 12-13).</i>	Explanatory style optimism
21.	"You are not a grenade, not to us. Thinking about you dying makes us sad, Hazel, but you are not a grenade. You are amazing. You can't know, sweetie. Because you've never had a baby become brilliant young reader with a side interest in horrible television shows, but the joy	Explanatory style optimism

	you bring us is so much greater than the sadness we feel about your illness,” (<i>Chapter 6, page 32, line 37-40</i>).	
22.	“I wanted to not be a grenade, to not be a malevolent force in the lives of people I loved.” (<i>Chapter 11, page 49, line 35-36</i>).	Dispositional optimism
23.	“I want to make my parents happy.” (<i>Chapter 1, page 10, line 1</i>).	Dispositional optimism
24	“These young heroes wait stoically and without complaint for their one true wish to come along. Sure, it may never come along, but at least they can rest easily in the grave knowing that they’ve done their little part to preserve the integrity of the wish as an idea.” (<i>Chapter 5, page 29, line 44-45</i>)	Dispositional optimism

Table 4.2. Hazel Grace’s Optimism

2. Hazel Grace’s Pessimism

Types of Pessimism	Frequency
Defensive pessimism	10
Dispositional pessimism	14

Table 4.3. Hazel Grace’s Pessimism

No.	Sentences / Dialogues of Pessimism	Type of pessimism
1.	<p>“Everyone was holding hands, and I couldn’t catch my breath, and my lungs were acting desperate, gasping, pulling me out of the bed trying to find a position that could get them air, and I was embarrassed by their desperation, disgusted that they wouldn’t just let go, and I remember my Mom telling me it was okay, that I would be okay, and my father was trying so hard not to sob that when he did, which was regularly, it was an earthquake. And I remember wanting not to be awake.” (<i>Chapter 2, page 13, line 32-35</i>).</p>	Defensive pessimism
2.	<p>“I wish I would just die, Patrick. Do you ever wish you would just die?” (<i>Chapter 24, page 82, line 26</i>).</p>	Defensive pessimism
3.	<p>“I refuse to attend Support Group.” (<i>Chapter 1, page 9, line 43</i>).</p>	Dispositional pessimism
4.	<p>“I fear oblivion. I fear it like the proverbial blind man who’s afraid of the dark.” (<i>Chapter 1, page 10, line 54</i>).</p>	Defensive pessimism
5.	<p>“Generally, your parents pull you out of school at some point if they expect you to bite it.”</p>	Defensive pessimism

	<i>(Chapter 2, page 13, line 19).</i>	
6.	“It always hurt not to breathe like a normal person, incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs, forcing yourself to accept as unsolvable the dawning scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation.” <i>(Chapter3, page 18, line 46-47).</i>	Dispositional pessimism
7.	“It occurred to me that the person my parents had no money was me. I’d sapped the family savings with Phalanxifor copays, and Mom couldn’t work because she had taken on the full-time profession of Hovering Over Me. I didn’t want to put them even further into debt.” <i>(Chapter 5, page 27, line 34-35).</i>	Dispositional pessimism
8.	“Diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer when I was thirteen. It was, we were told, incurable.” <i>(Chapter 2, page 13, line23-24).</i>	Defensive pessimism
9.	“The Support Group, of course, was depressing as hell.” <i>(Chapter 1, page 9, line 10).</i>	Defensive pessimism
10.	“I’m not eating dinner, and I can’t stay healthy because I’m not healthy. I am dying, Mom. I am going to die and leave you here alone and you won’t have a me to hover around and you	Dispositional pessimism

	won't be a mother anymore, and I'm sorry, but I can't do anything about it, okay?" (<i>Chapter 24, page 82, line 53-55</i>).	
11.	"And yet still I worried. I liked being a person. I wanted to keep at it. Worry is yet another side effect of dying." (<i>Chapter 5, page 24, line 15</i>).	Dispositional pessimism
12.	"I'm like. Like. I'm like a grenade, Mom. I'm a grenade and at some point I'm going to blow up and I would like to minimize the casualties, okay?" (<i>Chapter 6, page 31, line 58-59</i>).	Dispositional pessimism
13.	"I'd sooner die." (<i>Chapter 2, page 18, line 31</i>).	Dispositional pessimism
14.	"My shoulder hurt. I worried the cancer had spread from my lungs. I imagined the tumor metastasizing into my own bones, boring holes into my skeleton, a slithering eel of insidious intent." (<i>Chapter 5, page 29, line 8-9</i>).	Defensive pessimism
15.	"It was a long list. The world contains a lot of dead people. And while Patrick droned on, reading the list from a sheet of paper because it was too long to memorize, I kept my eyes closed, trying to think prayerfully but mostly imagining the day when my name would find its way onto that list, all the way at the end	Dispositional pessimism

	when everyone had stopped listening.” <i>(Chapter 1, page 11, line 17-19).</i>	
16.	“To be with him was to hurt him inevitably. And that’s what I’d felt as he reached for me. I’d felt as though I were committing an act of violence against him, because I was.” <i>(Chapter 6, page 32, line 18-19).</i>	Dispositional pessimism
17.	“One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities.” <i>(Chapter 1, page 9, line 44).</i>	Defensive pessimism
18.	“I want you guys to have a life. I worry that you won’t have a life, that you’ll sit around here all day with no me to look after and share at the walls and want to off yourselves.” <i>(Chapter 24, page 83, line 9-10).</i>	Defensive pessimism
19.	“Sometimes people don’t understand the promises they’re making when they make them.” <i>(Chapter 4, page 22, line 46).</i>	Defensive pessimism
20.	“They might be glad to have me around, but I was the alpha and the omega of my parents suffering.” <i>(Chapter 8, page 36, line 29-30).</i>	Dispositional pessimism
21.	“I’m not going on dates. I don’t want to go on dates with anyone. It’s a terrible idea and a	Dispositional pessimism

	huge waste of time and-“ (<i>Chapter 6, page 31, line 56</i>).	
22.	<p>“I’m a grenade, I just want to stay away from people and read books and think and be with you guys because there’s nothing I can do about hurting you, you’re too instead, so just please let me do that, okay? I’m not depressed. I don’t need to get out more. And I can’t be a regular teenager, because I’m a grenade.” (<i>Chapter 6, page 31, line 61-63</i>).</p>	Dispositional pessimism
23.	<p>“I wanted to make my parents happy. There is only one thing in this world shittier than biting it from cancer when you’re sixteen, and that’s having a kid who bites it from cancer.” (<i>Chapter 1, page 10, line 1-2</i>).</p>	Dispositional pessimism
24.	<p>“I want to minimize the number of deaths I am responsible for.” (<i>Chapter 2, page 14, line 20</i>).</p>	Dispositional pessimism

Table 4.4. Hazel Grace’s Pessimism

D. Discussion

There are some conclusion that the writer found, they are:

1. The most dominant type that shows the optimism in Hazel Grace is dispositional optimism and the most dominant type that shows the pessimism from Hazel Grace is dispositional pessimism.
2. The optimism and pessimism effect to Hazel Grace because of the condition she faces. The optimism effect to her when she is around her parents, while the pessimism effect to her when feels depression and sadness because of her illness.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This last chapter mainly presents the conclusion and the suggestion of this study. The analysis in the previous chapter are concluded and finally the writer will attempt to suggest some important matter concerning to the discussion of this study. These suggestions are considered to be important for everyone, especially other researcher who is going to conduct the researcher in the same field.

A. Conclusion

Based on the result of the study and discussion in chapter IV, it can be concluded:

1. The dominant type of optimism from Hazel Grace is dispositional optimism.

“Dispositional optimism” is defined as a global expectation that more good (desirable) things than bad (undesirable) that will happen in the future. In other words, dispositional optimism is an expectation or hope that create by ourself to face something in our lives. It is presumed to be stable with little scope for change and is alternatively described as a big optimism.

The dominant type of pessimism from Hazel Grace is dispositional pessimism. “Dispositional pessimism” is the tendency to believe the worst on a consistent basis. In other words, dispositional pessimism is a situation that made us pessimistic to face something that happen in our life and always blaming ourselves of every single thing.

2. The optimism and pessimism effect to Hazel Grace because of the situation she faces. The optimism effect to her when she is around her parents, while the pessimism effect to her when feels depression and sadness because of illness.

B. Suggestion

In studying literature, character should be considered important as it can being the readers to the theme of the story. It is also useful for the readers to know the meaning of the people character in the novel. To depends the understanding about meaning of the character in the novel the writer used the Scheier & Carver's theory to described about the optimism and pessimism and also the type in that novel.

Moreover, for those who are interested in studying literature, this study may contribute to the students in enjoying literary works, especially the novel. However, this study is still far from perfection since it actually discusses only a small part of the whole aspects that a literary study can cover.

The writer hopes this study will be useful for other researcher who is interested in analyzing this study. By reading this thesis, the reader will get the benefit and experience of life, which content in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars*. The writer hopes some comment and criticism from the readers related to this analysis of optimism and pessimism.

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APPENDIX

Late in the winter of my seventeenth year, my mother decided I was depressed, presumably because I rarely left the house, spent quite a lot of time in bed, read the same book over and over, ate infrequently, and devoted quite a bit of my abundant free time to thinking about death.

Whenever you read a cancer booklet or website or whatever, they always list depression among the side effects of cancer. But, in fact, depression is not a side effect of cancer. Depression is a side effect of dying (Cancer is also a side effect of dying. Almost everything is, really). But my mom believed I required treatment, so she took me to see my Regular Doctor Jim, who agreed that I was veritably swimming in paralyzing and totally clinical depression, and that therefore my meds should be adjusted and also I should attend a weekly Support Group.

This Support Group featured a rotating cast of characters in various states of tumor-driven unwellness. Why did the cast rotate? A side effect of dying.

The Support Group, of course, was depressing as hell. It met every Wednesday in the basement of a store-walled Episcopal church shaped like a cross, where the heart of Jesus would have been.

I noticed this because Patrick, the Support Group Leader and only person over eighteen in the room, talked about the heart of Jesus every freaking meeting, all about how we, as young cancer survivors, were

sitting right in Christ's very scared heart and whatever.

So here's how it went in God's heart: The six or seven or ten of us walked/wheeled in, grazed at a decrepit selection of cookies and lemonade, sat down in the Circle of Trust, and listened to Patrick recount for the thousandth time his depressingly miserable life story how we had cancer in this balls and they thought he was going to die but he didn't and now here he is a, a full-grown adult in a church basement in the 137th nicest city in America, divorced, addicted to video games, mostly friendless, making out a meager living by exploiting his concertastic past, slowly working his way toward a master's degree that will not improve his cancer prospects, waiting, as we all do, for the sword of Damocles to give him the relief that he escaped those many years ago when cancer took both of his nuts but spared what only the most generous soul would call his life.

AND YOU TOO MIGHT BE SO LUCKY!

Then we introduced ourselves: Name. Age. Diagnosis. And how we're doing today. I'm Hazel. I'd say when they'd get to me. Sixteen. Thyroid originally but with an an impressive and long-settled satellite colony in my lungs. And I'm doing okay.

Once we got around the circle, Patrick always asked if anyone wanted to share. And then began the circle jerk of support: everyone talking about fighting and battling and winning and shrinking and scanning. To be fair to Patrick, he let us talk about dying. Most

would live into adulthood, as Patrick had.

Which meant there was a quite a lot of competitiveness about it. With everybody wanting to beat not only cancer itself, but also the other people in the room. Like, I realize that this is rational, but when they tell you that you have, say, a 20 percent chance of living five years, the math kicks in and you figure that's one in five. So you look around and think, as any healthy person would: I gotta outlast four of these bastards.

The only redeeming facet of Support Group was this kid named Isaac, a long faced, skinny guy with straight blond hair swept over one eye.

And his eyes were the problem. He had some fantastically improbable eye cancer. One eye had been cut out when he was kid, and now he wore the kind of thick glasses that made his eyes (both the real one and the glass one) preternaturally huge, like his whole head was basically just this fake eye and this real eye staring at you. From what I could gather on the rare occasions when Isaac shared with the group, a recurrence had placed his remaining eye in mortal peril.

Isaac and I communicated almost exclusively through sighs. Each time someone discussed anticancer diets or smorting ground up shark fin or whatever, he'd glance over at me and sigh ever so slightly. I'd shake my head microscopically and exhale in response.

So Support Group blew, and after a few weeks, I grew to be rather kicking and screaming about the whole affair. In fact, on the

Wednesday I made the acquaintance of Augustus Waters, I tried my level best to get out of Support Group while sitting on the couch with my mom in the third leg of a twelve-hour marathon of the previous season's *America's Next Top Model*, which admittedly I had already seen, but still.

Me: "I refuse to attend Support Group."

Mom: "One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities."

Me: "Please just let me watch *America's Next Top Model*. It's an activity."

Mom: "Television is a passivity."

Me: "Ugh, mom, please."

Mom: "Hazel you're a teenager. You're not a little kid anymore. You need to make friends, get out of the house, and live your life."

Me: "If you want me to be a teenager, don't send me to Support Group. Buy me a fake ID so I can go to clubs, drink vodka, and take pot."

Mom: "You don't *take* pot for the starters."

Me: "See that's the kind of thing I'd know if you got me a fake ID."

Mom: "You're going to Support Group."

Me: "Uggggggggggggghh"

Mom: "Hazel, you deserve a life."

That shut me up, although I failed to see how attendance at Support Group met the definition of *life*. Still, I agreed to go after negotiating the right to record the 1.5 episodes of *ANTM* I'd be missing.

I went to Support Group for the same reason that I'd once allowed nurses with a mere eighteen months of graduate education to poison me with exotically named chemicals: I wanted to make my parents happy. There's only one thing in this world shittier than biting it from cancer when you're sixteen, and that's having a kid who bites it from cancer.

Mom pulled into the circular driveway behind the church at 4:56. I pretended to fiddle with my oxygen tank for a second just to kill time. "Do you want me to carry it in for you?"

"No, it's fine," I said." The cylindrical green tank only weighed a few pounds, and I had this little steel cart to wheel it around behind me. It delivered two liters of oxygen to me each minute through a cannula, a transparent tube that split just beneath my neck, wrapped behind my ears, and then reunited in my nostrils. The contraption was necessary because my lungs sucked at being lungs.

"I love ypu," she said as I got out.

"You too, Mom. See you at six."

"Make friends!" she said through the rolled-down window as I walked away.

I didn't want to take elevator because taking the elevator is a Last Days kind of activity at Support Group, so I took the stairs. I grabbed a cookie and poured some lemonade into a Dixie cup and then turned around.

A boy was staring at me.

I was quite sure I'd never seen him before. Long and leanly

muscular, he dwarfed the molded plastic elementary school chair he was sitting in. Mahogany hair, straight and short. He looked my age, maybe a year older, and he sat with his tailbone against the edge of the chair, his posture aggressively poor, one hand half in a pocket of dark jeans.

I looked away, suddenly conscious of my **myriad** insufficiencies. I was wearing old jeans, which had once been tight but now sagged in weird places, and a yellow T-shirt advertising a band I didn't even like anymore. Also my hair: I had this pageboy haircut, and I hadn't even bothered to, like, brush it. Furthermore, I had ridiculously fat chipmunked cheeks. A side effect of treatment. I looked like a normally proportioned person with a balloon for a head. This was not even to mention the cankle situation. Amd yet I cut a glance to him, and his eyes were still on me.

It occurred to me why they call it eye contact.

I walked in to the circle and sat down next to Isaac, two seats away from the boy. I glanced again. He was still watching me.

Look, let me just say it. He was hot. A nonhot boy stares at you relentlessly and it it, at best, awkward and, at worst, a from of assault. But a hot boy...well.

I pulled out my phone and checked it so it would display the time: 4:59. The circle filled in with the unlucky twelve to eighteens, and then Patrick started us out with the serenity prayer: *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know*

the difference. The guy was still staring at me. I felt rather blushy.

Finally, I decided that the proper strategy was to stare back. Boys don't have a monopoly on the Staring Business, after all. So I looked him over as Patrick acknowledge for the thousandth time his ball-lessness etc., and soon it was a staring contest. After a while the boy smiled, and the finally his blue eyes glanced away. When he looked back at me, I flicked my eyebrows up to say, I win.

He shrugged. Patrick continued and the finally it was time for the introductions. "Isaac, perhaps you'd like to go first today. I know you're facing a challenging time."

"Yeah," Isaac said. "I'm seventeen. And it's looking like I have to get surgery in a couple weeks, after which I'll be blind. Not to complain or anything because I know a lot of us have it worse, but yeah, I mean, being blind does sort of suck. My girlfriend helps, though. And friends like Augustus." He nodded toward the boy, who now had a name. "So, yeah." Isaac continued. He was looking at his hands, which he'd folded into each other like the top of a tepee. "There's nothing you can do about it."

"We're here for you, Isaac," Patrick said. "Let Isaac hear it, guys." And then we all, in a monotone, said, "We're here for you, Isaac." Michael was next. He was twelve. He had leukemia. He'd always had leukemia. He was okay. (Or so he said. He'd taken the elevator.)

Lida was sixteen, and pretty enough to be the object of the hot boy's eye. She was a regular in a

long remission from appendiceal cancer, which I had not previously known existed. She said as she had every other time I'd attended Support Group that she felt *strong*, which felt like bragging to me as the oxygen-drizzling nubs tickled my nostrils.

There were five others before they got to him. He smiled a little when his turn came. His voice was low, smoky, and dead sexy. "My name is Augustus Waters," he said. "I'm seventeen, I had a little touch of osteosarcoma a year and a half ago, but I'm just here today at Isaac's request."

"And how are you feeling?" asked Patrick.

"Oh, I'm grand." Augustus Waters smiled with a corner of his mouth. "I'm on a roller coaster that only goes up, my friend." When it was my turn, I said, "My name is Hazel. I'm sixteen. Thyroid with mets in my lungs. I'm okay."

The hour proceeded apace: Fights were recounted, battles won amid wars sure to be lost; hope was clung to; families were both celebrated and denounced; it was agreed that friends just didn't get it, tears were shed, comfort proffered. Neither Augustus Waters not I spoke again until Patrick said, "Augustus, perhaps you'd like to share your fears with the group."

"My fears?"

"Yes."

"I fear oblivion." he said without a moment's pause. "I fear it like the proverbial blind man who's afraid of the dark." Too soon, "Isaac said, cracking a smile.

"Was that insensitive?" Augustus asked. "I can be pretty blind to other people's feelings."

Isaac was laughing, but Patrick raised a chastening finger and said, “Augustus, please. Let’s return to *you* and *your* struggles. You said you fear oblivion?”

“I did,” Augustus answered.

Patrick seemed lost. “Would, uh, would anyone like to speak to that?”

I hadn’t been in proper school in three years. My parents were my two best friends. My third best friend was an author who did not know I existed. I was a fairly shy person not the hand raising type.

And yet, just this once, I decided to speak. I half raised my hand and Patrick’s, his delight evident, immediately said, “Hazel!” I was, I’m sure he assumed, opening up Becoming Part Of The Group.

I looked over at Augustus Waters, who looked back at me. You could almost see through his eyes they were so blue. “There will come a time,” I said, “when all of us are dead. All of us. There will come a time when there are no human beings remaining to remember that anyone ever existed or that our species ever did anything. There will be no one left to remember Aristotle or Cleopatra, let alone you. Everything that we did and built and wrote and thought and discovered will be forgotten and all of this” I gestured encompassingly “will have been for naught. May be that time is coming soon and maybe it is millions of years away, but even if we survive the collapse of our sun, we will not survive forever. There was time before organisms experienced consciousness, and there will be time after. And if the inevitability of hman oblivion worries you, I encourage

you to ignore it. God knows that’s what everyone else does.”

I’d learned this from my a forementioned third best friend, Peter Van Houten, the reclusive author of *An Imperial Affliction*, the book that was as close a thing as I had to a Bible. Peter Van Houten was the only person I’d ever come across who seemed to (a) understand what it’s like to be dying, and (b) not have died.

After I finished, there was quite a long period of silence as I watched a smile spread all the way across Augustus’s face not the little crooked smile of the boy trying to be sexy while he stared at me, but his real smile, too big for face. “Goddamn,” Augustus said quietly “Aren’t you something else.” Neither of us said anything for the rest of support group. At the end, we all had to hold hands, and Patrick let us in a prayer. “Lord Jesus Christ, we are gathered here in your heart, *literally in your heart*, as cancer survivor. You and you alone know us as we know ourselves. Guide us to life and the light through our times of trial. We pray for Isaac’s eyes, for Michael’s and Jamie’s blood, for Augustus bone’s, for Hazel’s lungs, for James’s throat. We pray that You might heal us and that we might feel Your love, and Your peace, which passes all understanding. And we remember in our hearts those whom we knew and loved who have gone home to you: Maria and Kade and Joseph and Haley and Abigail and Angelina and Taylor and Gabriel and. . .”

It was a long list. The world contains a lot of dead people. And while Patrick droned on, reading the

list from a sheet of paper because it was too long to memorize, I kept my eyes closed, trying to think prayerfully but mostly imagining the day when my name would find its way onto that list, all the way at the end when everyone had stopped listening.

When Patrick was finished, we said this stupid mantra together LIVING OUR BEST LIFE TODAY and it was over Augustus Waters pushed himself out of his chair and walked over to me. His gait was crooked like his smile. He towered over me, but he kept his distance so I wouldn't have to crane my neck to look him in the eye. "What's your name?" he asked.

"Hazel"

"No, your full name."

"Um, Hazel Grace Lancaster." He was just about to say something else when Isaac walked up. "Hold on," Augustus said, raising a finger, and turned to Isaac. "That was actually worse than you made it out to be."

"I told you it was bleak."

"Why do you bother with it?"

"I don't know. It kind of helps?"

Augustus leaned in so he though I couldn't hear. "She's a regular?" I couldn't hear Isaac's comment, but Augustus responded, "I'll say." He clasped Isaac by both shoulders and then took a half step away from him. "Tell Hazel about clinic."

Isaac leaned a hand against the snack table and focused his huge eye on me. "Okay, so I went into clinic this morning, and I was telling my surgeon that I'd rather be deaf than blind. And he said, 'It doesn't

work that way,' and I was, like, 'Yeah, I realize it doesn't work that way; I'm just saying I'd rather be deaf than blind if I had the choice, which I realize I don't have, 'and he said, 'Well, the good news is that you won't be deaf,' and I was like, 'Thank you for explaining that my eye cancer isn't going to make me deaf. I feel so fortunate that an intellectual giant like yourself would deign to operate on me.'"