

**THE REPRESENTATION OF ILLNESS AND DISABILITY IN ME BEFORE YOU
AND THE FAULT IN OUR STARS**

**Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature**

By

J. SANTHA KUMARI (40010024)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Accredited with Grade "A" by NAAC

JEPPIAAR NAGER, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, CHENNAI-600 119

May-2023



Edit with WPS Office



SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Accredited "A" Grade by NAAC | 12B Status by UGC | Approved by AICTE

www.sathyabama.ac.in

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the Bonafide work of J. SANTHA KUMARI (40010024) Who carried out the project entitled "THE REPRESENTATION OF ILLNESS AND DISABILITY IN ME BEFORE YOU AND THE FAULT IN OUR STARS" under my/our supervision from November 2022 to May 2023.

Internal Guide

External Guide (if applicable)

(DR. MRITTIKA MAITRA M.A, PH.D)

HOD
Department of English
Dr. J. AMUTHA MONICA
& Humanities
Head of Department

Head of the Department

(DR. J AMUTHA MONICA M.A., Mphil., PH.D.)

Submitted for viva voce Examination held on May 8, 2023

(DR. SUFINA.K)

(MR. S SENTHIL KUMAR M.A)

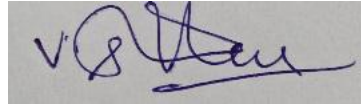


Edit with WPS Office

DECLARATION

I J. SANTHA KUMARI hereby declare that the Project Report entitled "THE REPRESENTATION OF ILLNESS AND DISABILITY IN ME BEFORE YOU AND THE FAULT IN OUR STARS" done by me under the guidance of DR.Mrittika Maitra MA, Ph.D. is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts degree in Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology.

DATE:



PLACE:

SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am pleased to acknowledge my sincere thanks to the Board of Management of **SATHYABAMA** for their kind encouragement in doing this project and for completing it successfully. I am grateful to them.

I convey my thanks to **Dr.Rekha Chakravarthi.**, Dean, School of Science & Humanities and **Dr.Amutha Monica J.**, Head of the Department, Dept. of English for providing me necessary support and details at the right time during the progressive reviews.

I would like to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my Project Guide **DR.Mrittika Maitra MA, Ph.D.** for his valuable guidance, suggestions and constant encouragement paved the way for the successful completion of my project work.

I wish to express my thanks to all Teaching and Non-teaching staff members of the Department of English, who were helpful in many ways for the completion of the project.

J.SANTHA KUMARI



ABSTRACT:

The aim of the paper is to compare and contrast the novel "Me Before You" and "The Fault in Our Stars". By examining the ways in which these novels approach the topic of love, loss, and terminal illness. They share similarities such as a central romance and successful movie adaptations, but differ in terms of setting, central characters, tone, and ending. "Me Before You" has a tone that deals with a Paralyzed man, while "The Fault in Our Stars" has a light hearted tone and deals with a teenage girl with cancer. The endings of the two novels are also different, with "Me Before You" ending controversially and "The Fault in Our Stars" ending traditionally. These differences and similarities provide readers with unique insights and emotional experiences, and ultimately contribute to the literary significance of both works.

KEY WORDS:

Love and relationship, Disability, Friendship and Terminal illness.



CONTENT	PAGE NO
Abstract	
Chapter 1	
1.1 OVERVIEW	1
1.2 INTRODUCTION	1
1.3 SUMMARY	2
1.4 CANCER	3
1.4.1 BONE AND LUNG CANCER	3
1.5 MENTAL ILLNESS	5
1.5.1 SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION	5
1.6 AUTHORS	7
Chapter 2	
2.1 OVERVIEW	8
2.2 LIFE STRUGGLE OF AUGUSTUS	8
2.3 LIFE STRUGGLE OF HAZEL	10
2.4 COMPARING THESE TWO CHARACTERS	12
Chapter 3	
3.1 OVERVIEW	15
3.2 LIFE STRUGGLES OF WILL	15
3.3 LIFE STRUGGLES OF LOU	16
3.4 COMPARING THESE TWO CHARACTERS	18
Chapter 4	
4.1 CONCLUSION	20
REFERENCE	21



CHAPTER 1

1.1 OVERVIEW

This Chapter aims to provide an overview of the novel. The first story explains the love, but the limited time they have together due to their illnesses forces them to live between young couples. The second story explains the disability, but his decision to end his life leaves her heartbroken. This chapter also explains briefly about the authors and the summary of the novel.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

These are two popular novels that follow the journey of a young woman who becomes a caregiver for a man. The novel tackles complex themes of love, loss, and difficult choices that we must make in life. While novels feature a love story, they also divide into themes such as acceptance, mortality, and finding meaning in life. "Me Before You" explores the ethical and emotional assisted suicide. While "The Fault in Our Stars" portrays the challenges of living with a terminal illness.

Louisa and Hazel are both intelligent and have strong willed young men. The supporting characters in both novels also play important roles in the story, adding depth to the overall narrative. They both remind readers of the importance of compassion, empathy, and the value of living every moment to the fullest. It also shed light on the impact of illness on families and loved ones. Both novels touch on the themes of the strength of the human spirit. They both face immense challenges but are able to find hope and love in their relationships with others. The emotional journey of the characters and the importance of finding meaning and purpose in life despite the challenges they



face. The reader to confront the realities of serious illness and disability, and to consider how they would respond to similar situations. The relationships between the characters in both novels are complex, portraying the depth of human emotion and connection. "Me Before You" explores the themes of privilege and social class, as main character Louisa Clark comes from a working-class background and struggles to adapt to the upper-class lifestyle of her employer. "The Fault in Our Stars" incorporates theme of mortality and the fragility of life, prompting the reader to consider their own mortality and the legacy they leave behind.

Both novels have been adapted into successful film adaptations, reflecting the widespread appeal of their themes and characters.

They offer a message of hope and face of adversity, inspiring readers to find meaning and purpose in their own lives. Ultimately, both "Me Before You" and "The Fault in Our Stars" are powerful works of fiction that offer an unforgettable exploration of the human experiences.

1.3 SUMMARY

"The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green and "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes are novels that deal with love, loss, and the complexities of human relationships. However, there are some differences between the two books.

In "The Fault in Our Stars," the main character is a teenage girl named Hazel Grace Lancaster who is battling terminal cancer. She meets and falls in love with Augustus Waters, a fellow cancer patient, and the two navigate the challenges of their illness while also grappling with the philosophical questions of life and death.

In "Me Before You," the main character is a young woman named Louisa Clark who takes a job as a caregiver for a quadriplegic man named Will Traynor. Will has lost his will to live after a tragic accident and is considering assisted suicide. Louisa tries to change his mind and in the process, they develop a close relationship that challenges both of them to rethink their priorities.

While both novels deal with the topic of terminal illness and the fragility of life, "The



Fault in Our Stars" is geared towards a younger audience and has a more youthful, romantic tone. "Me Before You," on the other hand, is a more mature and contemplative exploration of the ethics of assisted suicide and the complexities of personal relationships.

Overall, both books are poignant and thought-provoking explorations of love and loss that examine the deep emotions that arise in the face of mortality.

1.4 CANCER

Cancer is a disease characterized by the abnormal growth and proliferation of cells in the body. The history of cancer dates back to ancient times, and throughout history, it has been one of the most feared and deadly diseases. In this brief, they discuss the history of cancer from its earliest recorded instances up to the year 2021.

1.4.1 BONE AND LUNG CANCER

Bone cancer is a rare type of cancer that occurs in bones. It can develop in any bone in the body, but most commonly occurs in the long bones of the arms and legs. Bone cancer can be primary, meaning it starts in the bone, or secondary, meaning it spreads to the bone from another part of the body. This article will provide an overview of bone cancer, including its types, symptoms, causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.

Osteosarcoma: This is the most common type of bone cancer, accounting for approximately 35% of all bone cancers. It typically develops in children and teenagers, but can occur in adults as well. Osteosarcoma usually starts in the cells that produce new bone tissue.

In the novel "The Fault in Our Stars" written by John Green that explores the lives of two teenagers, Hazel and Gus, who are living with cancer. Hazel has lung cancer, which has metastasized to other parts of her body, and Gus has osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Throughout the novel, the two characters form a deep and meaningful relationship that is shaped by their shared experiences of living with cancer



Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. It is often diagnosed in people who smoke or have a history of smoking, but it can also occur in non-smokers. The symptoms of lung cancer can include coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, and weight loss. In *Hazel's* case, her cancer has spread to other parts of her body, including her liver, which has caused her to experience fatigue and weakness.

Bone cancer, on the other hand, is a type of cancer that begins in the bones. Osteosarcoma, the form of bone cancer that Gus has, is most commonly diagnosed in teenagers and young adults. It is a rare and aggressive form of cancer that usually starts in the bones of the arms or legs, but can also occur in other bones in the body. The symptoms of bone cancer include pain and swelling in the affected area, and in some cases, a lump or mass can be felt.

In *"The Fault in Our Stars"*, both Hazel and Gus struggle with the physical and emotional toll of living with cancer. Hazel is constantly connected to an oxygen tank, which she calls her "nasal cannula," and she has to be careful not to overexert herself. Gus, on the other hand, has lost his leg to cancer and wears a prosthetic. Despite their illnesses, both characters try to live as normally as possible, and they find solace in each other's company.

Throughout the novel, Green explores the impact of cancer on the lives of young people. Hazel and Gus both attend a cancer support group, where they meet and begin to fall in love. The support group is led by a woman named Lidewij, who encourages the teenagers to express their feelings and share their experiences with one another.

One of the most poignant moments in the novel is when Hazel and Gus travel to Amsterdam together to meet their favorite author, Peter Van Houten. Along the way, they share their hopes and fears with one another, and they begin to understand the depth of their connection. The trip is a turning point for both characters, as they realize that even though they may not have a lot of time left, they can still make the most of the time they do have.

The relationship between Hazel and Gus is a central part of the novel, and it is shaped by their shared experiences of living with cancer. They both understand what it is like



to face their own mortality at a young age, and they find comfort in each other's company. Their love for one another is deep and profound, and it gives them the strength to face the challenges of their illnesses

.

The novel is a powerful exploration of what it means to live with cancer. Through the characters of Hazel and Gus, Green portrays the physical and emotional toll of living with a life-threatening illness, and he highlights the importance of finding connection and support in difficult times. Despite the challenges they face, Hazel and Gus find meaning and purpose in their lives, and their love for one another gives them the courage to face whatever lies ahead. The novel is a moving tribute to the resilience of the human spirit, and it reminds us of the importance of living each day to the fullest.

1.5 MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illnesses are caused by a complex interplay of genetic, biological, environmental, and psychological factors. These disorders can be chronic or acute and can significantly impact a person's ability to carry out daily activities, maintain relationships, and enjoy life.

Treatment for mental illness can involve a combination of medication, psychotherapy, and lifestyle changes. It is important to seek professional help if you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of mental illness, as early diagnosis and treatment can improve outcomes and quality of life.

Stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness can prevent individuals from seeking help or accessing appropriate care. It is important to recognize that mental illness is a legitimate medical condition and to promote understanding, compassion, and support for those who are affected by it.

1.5.1 SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION

The novel "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes is a heart-warming story that tackles the themes of suicide and depression. The story revolves around Louisa Clark, a young woman who takes up a job as a caregiver for Will Traynor, a paralyzed man who is depressed and considering ending his life.



In this essay, we will explore the portrayal of suicide and depression in the novel "Me Before You," focusing on the characters of Louisa and Will, their struggles with mental illness, and the impact that suicide has on those around them.

Depression is a prevalent mental health issue that affects millions of people worldwide. In the novel, Will Traynor is portrayed as a successful, adventurous, and charismatic man who had it all until a tragic accident leaves him paralyzed from the neck down. This sudden change in his life takes a toll on his mental health, and he falls into a deep depression.

Will's depression is depicted as a complex issue that is not easily solved by medication or therapy. He experiences feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, and helplessness, and he struggles to find a reason to continue living. He resents the limitations that his disability imposes on him, and he feels trapped in his own body.

Louisa, on the other hand, is portrayed as a bright, cheerful, and optimistic young woman who is initially unaware of the severity of Will's depression. She takes up the job as his caregiver reluctantly and sees it as a temporary fix until she finds something better. However, as she spends more time with Will, she realizes the extent of his mental illness and how it affects his daily life.

Louisa's character is used to highlight the impact that mental illness can have on the people around the individual suffering from it. She witnesses first and how Will's depression affects his relationships with his family and friends and how it takes a toll on her own mental health. Louisa's character arc in the novel is a journey of self-discovery as she learns to confront her own fears and insecurities and confronts the reality of mental illness.

One of the main themes of the novel is suicide, and it is portrayed as a controversial and sensitive issue. Will's decision to end his life is seen as a choice that he has the right to make, but it is also portrayed as a tragic and devastating event that leaves a lasting impact on those around him.

While euthanasia is a major theme in the novel raises important ethical questions about



the right to die and the value of life. Will's decision to end his life is based on his belief that his disability has robbed him of his quality of life and that he cannot bear to live like that anymore. His decision is met with a mix of reactions from his family and friends, some of whom support him, while others try to convince him to change his mind.

Louisa, who has grown close to Will, is torn between her respect for his autonomy and her desire to keep him alive. She tries to convince him to give life another chance and shows him that there is still joy to be found in life despite his disability. However, she ultimately comes to accept his decision and supports him in his final moments.

The novel also explores the impact that suicide has on those left behind. Will's family and friends are devastated by his decision, and they struggle to come to terms with the loss. Louisa, in particular, is deeply affected by his death and struggles with feelings of guilt and regret.

1.5 AUTHOR'S

Jojo Moyes is a British author who has written numerous bestsellers, including "Me Before You," "After You," and "The Giver of Stars." Her novels often tackle complex issues such as mental illness, disability, and social injustice, while also exploring the themes of love, family, and identity. Moyes is known for her ability to create relatable and engaging characters and for her poignant and powerful storytelling.

John Green is an American author who has gained widespread popularity for his young adult novels, including "The Fault in Our Stars," "Paper Towns," and "Looking for Alaska." His stories often revolve around teenagers and explore themes such as love, friendship, loss, and mental illness. Green's writing style is characterized by his use of witty and insightful dialogue, memorable characters, and emotionally charged plotlines.

Both authors have received critical acclaim for their works, with many of their books being adapted into successful movies and TV series. They have also garnered a large following among readers, with their stories resonating with people of all ages and backgrounds.



CHAPTER 2

2.1 OVERVIEW

Chapter two is about the main characters of my first novel “The Fault in Our Stars” that explores the complexities of life and death through the eyes of two young cancer patients.

2.2 LIFE STRUGGLES OF AUGUSTUS

Augustus Waters, one of the main characters in John Green’s novel “The Fault in Our Stars,” faces numerous struggles throughout his life. From his battle with cancer to his relationships with loved ones, Augustus embodies the complex nature of human existence and the difficulties that come with it. In this essay, we will explore the various life struggles of Augustus in the novel and how they affect his character development.

One of the most prominent struggles that Augustus faces is his battle with cancer. At the age of 14, he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer that ultimately led to the amputation of his right leg.

Augustus describes the experience as a “side-effect of dying,” a reminder of his own mortality and the fragility of life. Despite his illness, Augustus remains optimistic and hopeful, believing that he can overcome his cancer and live a long and fulfilling life.

However, Augustus’ illness also serves as a constant reminder of the pain and suffering that he and his loved ones must endure. He describes his cancer as a “grenade” that has disrupted his life and the lives of those around him.

Augustus struggles with the guilt and shame that come with being a cancer patient, feeling as though he is a burden to his family and friends. This is evident in his relationship with Hazel, the novel’s protagonist, who is also battling cancer. Augustus believes that he is not worthy of her love and affection, fearing that he will only cause her more pain and suffering in the end.



Another life struggle that Augustus faces is his search for meaning and purpose in life. He is a deep thinker and philosopher, constantly pondering the meaning of life and existence. Augustus' love for books, particularly Peter Van Houten's novel "An Imperial Affliction," serves as a catalyst for his search for meaning. He becomes obsessed with the novel's open ending, believing that it holds the key to understanding the mysteries of life and death.

However, Augustus' search for meaning is complicated by his illness and the knowledge that he may not have much time left to live. He struggles with the existential questions of life, wondering if there is any meaning to be found in a world that seems so unjust and cruel. Augustus' search for meaning ultimately leads him to take risks and pursue his passions, such as traveling to Amsterdam with Hazel to meet Peter Van Houten in person. In doing so, Augustus finds purpose in his life and is able to make peace with his impending death.

Augustus also faces struggles in his relationships with his family and friends. He has a close relationship with his parents, who are supportive and loving throughout his illness. However, Augustus struggles with the burden of his illness on his family, feeling as though he has robbed them of their happiness and freedom.

He also has a strained relationship with his ex-girlfriend Caroline, who is unable to cope with his illness and ultimately ends their relationship. Augustus is hurt by Caroline's rejection, feeling as though he is unlovable and unworthy of affection.

In his relationship with Hazel, Augustus faces perhaps his greatest struggle. He falls deeply in love with her but is constantly haunted by the fear that his illness will hurt her. Augustus fears that he will be a burden to Hazel, causing her pain and suffering that she does not deserve. This fear leads him to distance himself from Hazel, trying to protect her from the pain of losing him.

Augustus' struggles in his relationship with Hazel ultimately lead to his character development. Through his relationship with her, Augustus learns to open up and be vulnerable, sharing his deepest fears and emotions with her. He also learns to accept



love and affection from Hazel, realizing that he is worthy of love despite his illness.

2.3 LIFE STRUGGLES OF HAZEL

Hazel Grace Lancaster, faces numerous life struggles throughout the course of the story. Hazel is a sixteen-year-old girl who has been diagnosed with stage IV thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs, making her condition terminal. She spends most of her time at home or at a cancer support group, where she meets Augustus Waters, a fellow cancer patient. Throughout the novel, Hazel faces physical, emotional, and social struggles that challenge her sense of self and her relationships with those around her.

One of the primary life struggles that Hazel faces in the novel is her physical limitations. As a result of her cancer, Hazel has to carry an oxygen tank with her everywhere she goes, which limits her mobility and makes her feel like a burden to others.

Hazel is constantly worried about whether her oxygen will run out, and she has to be careful not to overexert herself. This physical struggle is a constant reminder of Hazel's illness and her limited time left to live.

Another life struggle that Hazel faces is the emotional toll of her illness. Hazel struggles with feelings of isolation and depression, as she feels that she is different from other teenagers her age. She is constantly reminded of her illness and the fact that she may not live to see her next birthday. Hazel also struggles with her relationship with her parents, who are both consumed by their worry and sadness over her illness. Hazel feels guilty for causing her parents pain and for not being able to fulfill their expectations for her future.

Hazel's social struggles are also a significant part of the novel. She is often treated differently by those around her because of her illness, and she feels like an outsider in social situations. At the cancer support group, she is one of the younger attendees, which makes her feel out of place.

When she meets Augustus, she is initially hesitant to form a relationship with him



because she is afraid of the pain that her death will cause him. Hazel's cancer also affects her relationships with her friends, as she feels that she is burdening them with her illness and that they cannot relate to her experiences.

Throughout the novel, Hazel's struggles are further complicated by her relationship with Augustus. She falls in love with him, but she is afraid to become too attached because of her illness. Augustus also has cancer, and Hazel worries about how his death will affect her.

As their relationship deepens, Hazel begins to struggle with the idea of losing Augustus and the pain that will inevitably come with it. When Augustus dies, Hazel is devastated and struggles to come to terms with his death.

Despite these struggles, Hazel learns to find hope and joy in her life. She forms a close relationship with Augustus, and their time together helps her to realize that life is worth living, even in the face of adversity.

Hazel also learns to appreciate the small moments in life, such as spending time with her family and friends and reading her favourite book. She finds comfort in knowing that she has made a difference in the lives of those around her and that her legacy will live on after she is gone.

The character of Hazel in "The Fault in Our Stars" faces numerous life struggles throughout the novel. Her physical limitations, emotional turmoil, and social isolation all contribute to her sense of helplessness and despair.

However, through her relationships with Augustus and her family and friends, Hazel learns to find hope and joy in her life. Despite the inevitability of her death, Hazel's story is ultimately one of resilience, courage, and the power of love to overcome even the greatest challenges.



2.4 COMPARING THESE TWO CHARACTERS

A comparison of the characters Hazel and Augustus in John Green's novel "The Fault in Our Stars." While both protagonists are teenagers with cancer, they possess different personalities and outlooks on life, which is reflected in their actions, thoughts, and interactions. In this comparison, I will explore their similarities, differences, and how their characters develop throughout the story.

SIMILARITIES:

Hazel and Augustus share some similarities that shape their relationship and the story's events. Firstly, they are both cancer survivors who have experienced the physical and emotional effects of the disease. Their illnesses have also affected their families, who worry about them and make sacrifices to support their treatments.

Both characters are intelligent and well-read, with a fondness for literature, which forms the basis of their connection. They share a love for the novel "An Imperial Affliction," which Hazel introduces to Augustus, and they bond over their interpretations and feelings about the story.

Furthermore, Hazel and Augustus share a cynical sense of humor, which they use to cope with their situations. They both acknowledge the harsh realities of life, including their mortality, and are open about their thoughts and fears.

Lastly, both characters challenge conventional norms and expectations, refusing to be defined by their illnesses or pitied by others. They reject the labels of cancer patients and strive to live on their terms, pursuing their passions and interests.

DIFFERENCES:

Despite their similarities, Hazel and Augustus have significant differences that affect their characters' growth and relationships. Firstly, their attitudes towards their illnesses differ, with Hazel taking a pragmatic approach and Augustus adopting a more romanticized outlook. Hazel accepts her fate and tries to make the best of her remaining time, whereas Augustus believes in the power of will and perseverance to overcome his cancer. He describes his condition as a "side effect of dying," refusing to let it define him or his ambitions.



Additionally, Hazel and Augustus have different personalities and worldviews. Hazel is introspective, reserved, and often pessimistic, while Augustus is outgoing, confident, and optimistic. Hazel is wary of forming attachments, afraid of causing pain to others when she passes away, whereas Augustus is more impulsive and passionate, not afraid to love and be loved. Augustus' exuberance and charisma often overshadow Hazel's more subdued nature, leading to conflicts and misunderstandings between them.

Moreover, Hazel and Augustus have different experiences and perspectives on life. Hazel has been dealing with cancer for most of her teenage years, causing her to miss out on many typical teenage experiences. Her life has been defined by her illness, and she often feels isolated and detached from others her age. Augustus, on the other hand, has recently been diagnosed with cancer, allowing him to experience a more normal adolescence before his illness. He is still grappling with the implications of his condition, but he has not yet become disillusioned with life, like Hazel.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

The character development of Hazel and Augustus is one of the novel's central themes, as they learn from each other's perspectives and experiences. Throughout the story, Hazel evolves from a withdrawn, cautious teenager to a more adventurous and open-minded young woman.

She learns to let go of her fears and embrace the present, pursuing her dreams and taking risks. Augustus' influence plays a crucial role in her development, challenging her assumptions and showing her the beauty and meaning in life.

Augustus also undergoes significant growth, from a confident, carefree teenager to a vulnerable, introspective young man. He learns to confront his mortality and accept the reality of his condition, realizing that his actions have consequences for those he loves. His experiences with Hazel give him a new perspective on life, allowing him to appreciate the small moments and relationships that make it.



In the final chapters of the novel, Hazel struggles to come to terms with Augustus' death and its impact on her life. She experiences a range of emotions, including sadness, anger, and despair, but she eventually finds solace in the knowledge that Augustus loved her deeply and that she made a difference in his life. She also receives a letter from Peter Van Houten, the author of "An Imperial Affliction," which provides closure and insight into the story's unresolved plotlines.

In the epilogue, Hazel reflects on her experiences with Augustus and their impact on her life. She acknowledges the pain and loss she has experienced but also recognizes the beauty and joy that came from their relationship. She continues to live her life, pursuing her passions and dreams, but always carrying a piece of Augustus with her. The novel ends with the poignant reminder that even in the face of tragedy and loss, life can still be meaningful and worth living.



CHAPTER 3

3.1 OVERVIEW

Chapter three is about the main characters of my second novel "Me Before You" that has touched the hearts of readers worldwide. It is a testament to the power of love and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

3.2 LIFE STRUGGLES OF WILL

Will Traynor, the male protagonist in "Me Before You," is a complex character who has experienced significant struggles in his life. Before his accident, Will was a successful businessman and an adventurer who loved traveling and extreme sports. He had a girlfriend, a fancy apartment, and a fulfilling life. However, all of that changed when he was left paralyzed from the neck down after a motorcycle accident.

One of Will's biggest struggles in the novel is his loss of independence. Before his accident, Will was a self-sufficient and active person who enjoyed traveling the world and trying new things.

However, after becoming paralyzed, he is confined to a wheelchair and is completely dependent on others for his basic needs. This loss of independence is one of the most challenging aspects of his life, as it makes him feel trapped and helpless.

Another struggle that Will faces is the loss of his identity. Before his accident, Will was a successful businessman and an adventurer who had a clear sense of purpose and direction in life. However, after becoming paralyzed, he is forced to give up his career, his hobbies, and his sense of self. He feels like he has lost everything that defined him as a person, and this loss leaves him feeling empty and uncertain about his future.

Will also struggles with depression and suicidal ideation. He has been living with his disability for two years at the beginning of the novel, and he has become increasingly despondent and hopeless. He no longer sees the point of living a life that is so limited and painful, and he begins to contemplate assisted suicide as a way out. This struggle is one of the most difficult for Will and is a significant theme throughout the novel.



In addition to these struggles, Will also faces significant challenges in his relationships with others. He is bitter and cynical towards those around him, especially his family, who he feels have not done enough to support him. He is also hesitant to engage with Louisa, his caregiver, at first, and is resistant to her attempts to help him. This struggle stems from his feelings of isolation and his belief that no one can truly understand what he is going through.

Will's struggles are central to the novel, and they are explored with empathy and sensitivity by the author, Jojo Moyes. The novel raises important questions about disability, autonomy, and the right to die, and it encourages readers to consider the perspectives of those who are living with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Through Will's struggles, the novel shows the importance of valuing human life and the need for greater understanding and empathy towards those who are living with disabilities.

3.3 LIFE STRUGGLES OF LOU

The story of Louisa Clark, a young woman who takes a job as a caregiver for a wealthy quadriplegic man named Will Traynor. Through their interactions and experiences, Louisa learns about the struggles and complexities of life, particularly for someone with a disability like Will. However, Louisa also faces her own struggles and challenges throughout the novel, which are worth exploring in-depth.

At the beginning of the novel, Louisa is introduced as a twenty-six-year-old woman who has just lost her job at a local cafe. She lives at home with her parents, her grandfather, and her younger sister, Treena, and has no clear direction or goals in life. Louisa's struggle at this point in the novel is one of directionlessness and a lack of purpose. She feels stuck in her small town and unable to pursue any meaningful opportunities.

This all changes when Louisa takes the job as Will's caregiver. At first, Louisa struggles to adapt to the demands of the job, particularly as she has no experience in caregiving or working with disabled people. She is also taken aback by Will's initial hostility towards her, as he is bitter and resentful of his condition and sees Louisa as a symbol of his diminished independence.



However, as Louisa spends more time with Will, she begins to understand his struggles more deeply. She sees firsthand the challenges of living with a disability, from the physical limitations to the societal stigmas and prejudices that disabled people face. Louisa becomes increasingly committed to helping Will live a fulfilling life despite his disability, and she works hard to come up with creative solutions to make this possible.

However, Louisa's struggle in this phase of the novel is one of emotional turmoil. As she grows closer to Will, she finds herself falling in love with him, even as he pushes her away. Louisa is torn between her loyalty to Will and her own desires, and she grapples with the ethics of pursuing a romantic relationship with someone who is disabled and may not be able to reciprocate her feelings.

As the novel progresses, Louisa becomes more and more determined to help Will find joy and purpose in his life. She takes him on outings, plans activities for him, and even convinces him to travel to Switzerland to undergo assisted suicide. However, even as she helps Will, Louisa continues to struggle with her own feelings and her own sense of identity.

In particular, Louisa grapples with the question of what she wants out of life. She has always been content with her simple existence in her small town, but her experiences with Will have opened her eyes to a larger world of possibilities. She begins to question whether she is living up to her full potential and whether there is more to life than just getting by.

Ultimately, Louisa's struggle comes to a head in the novel's climax, when she discovers that Will intends to go through with assisted suicide. Louisa is devastated by this news and feels that she has failed in her mission to help Will find a reason to live. She is also forced to confront her own feelings of love and loss, and to grapple with the fact that she may never find someone who understands her as deeply as Will did.

In the aftermath of Will's death, Louisa must navigate a difficult grieving process and find a way to move on with her life. She is deeply affected by her experiences with Will and continues to struggle with questions of purpose and identity. However, by the end of the novel, Louisa has begun to take steps towards a new life. She has traveled to



Paris, taken a new job, and even begun to consider pursuing her own dreams and aspirations.

3.4 COMPARING THESE TWO CHARACTERS

The novel is about the relationship between Will Traynor and Louisa Clark. Will Traynor is a wealthy, successful, and adventurous man who becomes paralyzed after a motorcycle accident. On the other hand, Louisa Clark is a young woman who has just lost her job and takes on the job of being Will's caregiver.

This essay will compare the characters of Will and Lou, exploring their differences and similarities in terms of their personalities, their aspirations, their values, and their relationships with others.

PERSONALITY:

Will Traynor is a complex character. He is intelligent, witty, and charming, but he is also bitter, angry, and depressed after his accident. He is used to living life on his own terms, and he resents the fact that he is now dependent on others for everything. He is sarcastic and often pushes people away, especially those who try to help him. He is also fiercely independent and proud, refusing to accept any kind of pity or sympathy from others.

Louisa Clark, on the other hand, is a simple and easy-going person. She is kind-hearted, empathetic, and caring. She is always looking for ways to help others, even if it means putting her own needs aside. She is also creative and imaginative, with a love for fashion and bright colours. She is not highly educated, but she has a curious mind and is always eager to learn new things.

ASPIRATIONS:

Before his accident, Will Traynor was a successful and ambitious businessman. He was highly driven and focused on his career, and he enjoyed taking risks and seeking new challenges. He was also adventurous and loved traveling to new places and trying new things. After his accident, however, he loses his sense of purpose and becomes disillusioned with life. He feels trapped in his own body and sees no point in living anymore.



Louisa Clark, on the other hand, has modest aspirations. She is happy with her simple life and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. However, she is also curious and eager to explore new things. She takes on the job of being Will's caregiver as a way to challenge herself and learn new skills. Through her relationship with Will, she discovers her own potential and begins to dream of a better future for herself.

VALUES:

Will Traynor values independence, autonomy, and freedom. He believes that life is about taking risks and living on one's own terms. He is also fiercely protective of his own dignity and refuses to be pitied or patronized by others. He values honesty and integrity and is willing to speak his mind, even if it means hurting others.

Louisa Clark values kindness, compassion, and empathy. She believes that life is about helping others and making a positive difference in the world. She is also loyal and devoted to those she cares about and will do whatever it takes to support them. She values honesty and openness in relationships and is willing to be vulnerable with others.

RELATIONSHIP:

Will Traynor has had several relationships in the past, but he has always been guarded and reluctant to commit to anyone. He is afraid of being hurt and is hesitant to trust others. After his accident, he becomes even more isolated and withdrawn, pushing away those who try to get close to him.

Louisa Clark has had a long-term relationship with her boyfriend, Patrick, but she is not completely happy in the relationship. She feels that she is not being true to herself and is not living up to her full potential. Through her relationship with Will, she learns to stand up for herself and to pursue her own dreams.



CHAPTER 4

4.1 CONCLUSION

"Me Before You" and "The Fault in Our Stars" are two popular novels that have gained immense popularity among readers. These novels explore the lives of young protagonists who are facing life-altering challenges, and offer poignant reflections on the value of human life and the importance of cherishing our time with loved ones.

While there are similarities in the themes and characterizations of the two novels, they also have notable differences. Louisa Clark in "Me Before You" is a caregiver hired to assist a quadriplegic man named Will Traynor, while Hazel Grace Lancaster in "The Fault in Our Stars" is a teenager with terminal cancer who falls in love with another cancer patient named Augustus Waters. Both characters demonstrate strength and resilience in the face of their challenges, but the novels differ in the portrayal of their relationships.

In "Me Before You," Louisa and Will's relationship is characterized by a significant power imbalance due to his physical limitations. In contrast, Hazel and Augustus form a more equal partnership in "The Fault in Our Stars," sharing a deep understanding of each other's struggles. Both novels address important themes related to love, loss, and the value of human life, but "Me Before You" raises ethical questions about assisted suicide, while "The Fault in Our Stars" explores the impact of illness and mortality on relationships.

Overall, both novels offer powerful and emotional journeys that resonate with readers and leave a lasting impact. They offer different perspectives on the human experience, while ultimately emphasizing the importance of cherishing the time we have with the people we love.



REFERENCE:

- Deahl, Rachel (January 31, 2012). "Fox Options John Green's 'Fault in Our Stars'". *Publishers Weekly*. Retrieved July 23, 2013.
- ^ Jump up to:^{a b c} "The Fault In Our Stars remake: Sushant Singh Rajput, debutante Sanjana Sanghi in Mukesh Chhabra's directorial debut– Entertainment News, Firstpost". *Firstpost*. March 19, 2018. Retrieved March 19, 2018.
- ^ *Hospital Chaplain: The Miracle of Swindon Town #33*, archived from the original on November 17, 2021, retrieved September 12, 2021
- ^ "Kenyon College: John Green – Thoughts on How To Make Things and Why". Archived from the original on November 17, 2021 – via YouTube.
- ^ "John Green Contributes To 'This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl,' Book About Cancer Victim". *Huffington Post*. March 28, 2013. Retrieved November 4, 2014.
- ^ "Pamela Dorman Books/Viking to Publish Jojo Moyes' After You, the Sequel to Me Before You". Penguin Books. Retrieved 7 March 2016.
- ^ "Still Me by Jojo Moyes". Penguin Random House. Retrieved 13 March 2018.
- ^ Schaap, James C. "Me Before You (Book Review)." *Pro Rege* 42.1 (2013): pp. 32–33
- ^ "NY Times Book Review". *The New York Times*. 4 January 2013. Retrieved 27 July 2016

