

Ninth Grade Summer Reading Journal

All rising ninth graders at CCSC are required to read *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green over the summer in preparation for the 2015-2016 academic year. Additionally, students must complete a **typed** journal over the summer that addresses several questions raised by the novel. **The total number of pages for this assignment is 3 typed pages. You must have all 3 parts. This assignment is due on the first day of school, in my bin.**

Part 1: Text-to-Self Connection

- What passage of the story connected to your life the most? Why?
- Answer in AT LEAST TWO paragraphs.
- In the first paragraph, describe IN DETAIL the passage in the story that you connected to most.
- In the second paragraph, describe IN DETAIL why that passage connected to your life.
- **This entry must be AT LEAST 1 page total.**

Part 2: Character Change

- How does Hazel OR Augustus change over the course of this book?
- Describe ONE SPECIFIC way that one or the other changes during the course of the story.
- Find a scene from the beginning, middle, and end of the book that shows this change.
- Write a paragraph about EACH scene where you describe the scene IN DETAIL and make sure you explain how each scene demonstrates how Hazel or Augustus change during the story.
- **This entry must be AT LEAST 1 page total.**

Part 3: Reflecting on a Theme

Choose ONE of the THREE prompts (a, b, or c) below about a theme in the book. (A theme is an important idea that shows up many times in a work of literature.) Do NOT write about more than one of the prompts below for this part. **This entry must be AT LEAST 1 page total.**

a) Physical and emotional pain:

- o Find AT LEAST THREE specific scenes in the book that involve physical and/or emotional pain.
- o Write a paragraph about EACH scene where you describe the scene IN DETAIL and how physical and/or emotional pain affect Hazel and Augustus.
- o Write a fourth and final paragraph about how your views on physical and/or emotional pain have changed as a result of this book.

b) Confronting (facing head-on) death:

- o Find AT LEAST THREE specific scenes in the book that involve death.
- o Write a paragraph about EACH scene where you describe the scene IN DETAIL and the ways in which Hazel and Augustus both fear death and confront their own deaths.
- o Write a fourth and final paragraph about how your views on death have changed as a result of this book.

c) Facing our fears makes us stronger:

- o Find AT LEAST THREE specific scenes that relate to Hazel and/or Augustus's fears.
- o Write a paragraph about EACH scene where you describe the scene IN DETAIL and how Hazel and Augustus deal with their fears.
- o Write a fourth and final paragraph about how your views on fear have changed as a result of this book.

Honors Option: Read and annotate *The Poisonwood Bible*

Students who would like to do the Honors Option should **also** read Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*. There is no honors writing assignment, but students who read *The Poisonwood Bible* should expect to have to do a small group discussion with their humanities teacher about this honors book. **Note:** It is strongly suggested that students read this honors book, but there will be other honors options available in the fall.