Hazel and Isaac are teens living with cancer. Hazel has a form of thyroid cancer that has damaged her lungs and periodically requires drainage of her lungs and the constant use of a portable oxygen concentrator tank she has named Phillip. Isaac has a form of cancer that has already caused the removal of one eye and will eventually leave him blind. They meet at a weekly support group at a local church designed to help 12-18 year olds deal with their cancer. At the beginning of the story Isaac brings a friend, Gus to the meeting, who is dealing with a cancer of his own, that has resulted in a prosthetic leg. It’s basically love at first sight and the evening they meet Gus invites Hazel to his house to watch are boyfriend and girlfriend.

The three friends are in varying stages of their disease. Gus is in remission, Hazel is okay as long as she continues to use the BIPAP and oxygen concentrator that allowed her to breathe, and Isaac is scheduled to lose his remaining eye due to the recurrence of his cancer. Gus and Hazel rally to support Isaac who is experiencing deep depression, first because his girlfriend Monica dumped him because, “It’s better to dump a one-eyed boy than a blind one”, and secondly to help him adapt to losing his sight.

Hazel has a favorite book she has read until it’s ragged, An Imperial Affliction. When she and Gus are trying to learn all they can about one another she recommends it to Gus who finishes it overnight and has the same concerns she does about the conclusion of the book. They contact the author, who after several conflicting contacts has made an offer to meet them in Amsterdam. This could be great, but Hazel has used her one wish from the “Genies”, this story’s version of the Make a Wish Foundation, to go to Disney with her parents.

By some twist of fate her wish is granted and the doctors say she can go to Amsterdam. Find out how Hazel, Gus, and Isaac respond to living with and dying of cancer through the many twists and turns of this novel.

The Fault in Our Stars Book Discussion Questions:

1. This story starts out with Hazel not wanting to go to Support Group, a meeting of 12-18 year olds like her meant to help her live with cancer. Why doesn’t she want to go?

2. What is Hazel’s mother doing while Hazel is at support group and the mall?

3. Why Gus always have an unlit cigarette dangling from his lips?

4. Why does Hazel want to meet Peter Van Houten?

5. How do the Genies grant Hazel the wish to go to Amsterdam?

6. How are Hazel and Gus received by Peter Van Houten when they arrive in Amsterdam?
7. Who is Lidewij and what is her significance to Peter Van Houten?

8. What is the *Literal Heart of Jesus*?

9. Why can't Hazel just get a lung transplant?

10. What do you think happens to the remaining characters?