CHAPTER 3

HAZEL GRACE’S STRUGGLE IN JOHN GREEN’S NOVEL THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

In this chapter, I want to analyze the depiction of Hazel Grace’s struggle and motivation in The Fault in Our Stars novel. This analysis focuses on Hazel Grace as the main character of this novel. By firstly describing on her character, I hope to gain profound knowledge about Hazel’s character clearly. After knowing the fundamental background of Hazel character, then studying through her characterization is intended to reveal her way of struggle. Then, after knowing the character and characterization of Hazel Grace, I want to find out how her struggle to fulfil her needs based on Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of need theory, for basically human’s motivation will grow bigger as he or she reaches a certain level of satisfaction. The bigger satisfaction a person wants, the bigger his or her motivation grows.

3.1 Hazel’s Characterization in Round Character

The author tells the story of Hazel Grace in The Fault in Our Stars by using first person point of view which Hazel herself appears as the narrator who narrates all the events and experiences she has. She is the one who tells to the readers about what she does, speaks and thinks and also limits the reader’s perspective to what she sees. So, Hazel automatically becomes the main character because she is an important figure and appears on the whole story as DiYanni said
that major character is an important figure at the center of the story’s action or theme (54).

Furthermore DiYanni stated that the major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story’s conflict. Supporting the major character is one or more secondary or minor characters whose function is partly to illuminate the major characters (54). In this story, Hazel belongs to protagonist character which is also supported by minor characters that makes the readers can feel her hard struggle in her life. Hazel is characterized in this novel as follows:

Hazel Grace is a character of sixteenth years old girl who is depressed as it is evident from her mother’s opinion about her condition:

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 (Green 1).

From the quotation above, it can be said Hazel lives unhappy life. Girls of her age will not think about death, will enjoy their life as the teenager, will get social relationship with others and so on. It is different with Hazel condition, she just spends her time as teenager who just stays at home, and she does not want to interact with others outside. She chooses to make her own world in her room and read same books in her time. Based on the discussion of in previous chapter, depressed will come to the adolescents characterization.
Based on Taylor’s statement which have discussed in the previous chapter, depressed becomes the one effect of chronic illness. This condition also happens to Hazel, she becomes depressed because she is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer since her thirteen ages:

I told Augustus the broad outline of my miracle: diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer when I was thirteen. (I didn’t tell him that the diagnosis came three months after I got my first period. Like: Congratulations! You’re a woman. Now die.) It was, we were told, incurable (Green 5).

This means that she has to face her condition for a number of years, at least three years since she was diagnosed with stage IV thyroid cancer in her thirteen ages. She feels very difficult to make relation with another person. It is shown in her statement:

I’d learned this from my afore mentioned 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 (Green 2).

It seems that Hazel does not make other relation outside. She limits herself and just recognizes her parents and her favorite author, Peter Van Houten, as her best friends. She believes that Peter can understand how someone’s like to be but they not have died. Actually, Hazel’s age is considered to be adolescent. In her sixteenth, she should to make relation with her peers. The function of getting along with peers is to give more new information outside the world of family (Santrock 220). Basically, based on Hazel’s age, she is considered as adolescent.
According to Havighurst, Hazel is sixteen years old which in this age she has to get new relation with her colleague (qtd. in Agustiani 62).

Therefore, Hazel can be said depressed because of her daily activity which are she just spend her time at home, she does same activities and she does not make any relations or interact with others outside.

Cancer has some effects to the body of patients. It also happens to Hazel when she has gotten some treatments for her cancer. This effect has been realized by Hazel when she meets Augustus in supported group:

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 (Green 2).

From the quotation above, it can be said Hazel is not confident with her performance. She realizes what the pity of her appearance; it is like she has bad personality. She does not care with her performance, so she chooses a simple clothes and haircut. In addition, teenagers of her age has to pay attention for their performance. Her unconfident also shows in her conversation with August:

I struggled with how to pitch myself to Augustus Waters, which enthusiasms to embrace, and in the silence that followed it occurred to me that I wasn’t very interesting. “I am pretty unextraordinary.” (Green 6)
It seems that Hazel is a character who does not confident with herself. She thinks she is not interesting, cannot do anything more like people normally, so she said she is pretty unextraordinary girl.

Hazel is not only depressed, but also becomes a mousy girl. She is a shy person but she becomes different since she joins with supported group.

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 (Green 2).

That shows why Hazel becomes a mousy girl, because she had not been joining at school in three years. The support group can change her become different. When Augustus Waters said that he fear oblivion, Patrick as the coach of support group asks the other opinion. Hazel tries to give her opinion in front of her friends. “And yet, just this once, I decided to speak. I half raised my hand and Patrick, his delight evident, immediately said, “Hazel!” I was, I’m sure he assumed, opening up. Becoming Part Of The Group” (Green 2). She decides to speak and share her opinion and this event becomes her first meeting with Augustus Waters.

Hazel does not have siblings; it makes her parents give her more affection so that she deeply loves her parents.

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.” (Green 1)

Hazel’s parents care about their daughter’s condition, especially her mom. Hazel’s mom does not want her child just stay at home. She realizes that her daughter is already teenager, so she wants Hazel to make relation with friends and does her activity as like as teenager generally. Hazel refuses her mom’s advice to attend support group.

Although Hazel is depressed with her condition becomes a girl who got cancer, she loves her parents very much. It shows in her mind:

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 (Green 2).

From this statement, I see that Hazel wants to make her parents happy. She thinks that the biting thing from cancer is having a kid who bites it from cancer. She does not want to make her parents sad because of her condition. Her parents also love her because she is an only child. “You have siblings?” I shook my head no. “So what’s your story?” he asked, sitting down next to me at a safe distance” (Green 6).

Her loving to others is also shown in her loyalty to her friends, Augustus and Isaac. She tries to help her friends as quick she can. It is shown in this quotation:
Like the death cries of some injured animal. Gus turned his attention to Isaac. “Dude. Dude. Does Support Group Hazel make this better or worse? Isaac. Focus. On. Me.” After a minute, Gus said to me, “Can you meet us at my house in, say, twenty minutes?” “Sure,” I said, and hung up. (Green 13)

From the explanation above, it can be concluding that Hazel is characterized as the teenager who loves her parents, she still obey what her parents wants; and Hazel also cares with her friend, August and Isaac.

However, Hazel is not type of person who is easily hopeless in her condition. This is the interesting part which Hazel looks as a struggle girl. Beside he feels depressed, not confident, mousy, Hazel is an energetic girl. It shows from her conversation with Augustus:

“So now you gotta go back to school,” he said. “I actually can’t,” I explained. “because I already got my GED. So I’m taking classes at MCC,” which was our community college. “A college girl,” he said, nodding. “That explains the aura of sophistication.” He smirked at me. I shoved his upper arm playfully. I could feel the muscle right beneath the skin, all tense and amazing. (Green 5)

From the conversation above, I see that Augustus very surprised because Hazel gets cancer in her sixteen and she has already finished her study in GED, she continues her study to collage in MCC. So, Augustus calls Hazel “a college girl” means that she is an intellectual girl. This is like Santrock statement that school is very important things especially for adolescence, which the function is to develop the intellectual creativity (255).
Although Hazel realizes her lacking, she still tells the truth about her to her new friend, Augustus Waters. “I considered lying. No one likes a corpse, after all. But in the end I told the truth. “No, my parents withdrew me three years ago” (Green 5). Her meeting with August makes her opened more about herself.

Additionally, it is like Hartup statement in Santrock Adolescence that is interaction with peers have unique role in America society (219). This means that the interaction with peers makes Hazel changes to be open.

Hazel’s meeting with Augustus Waters makes her know more about herself. They talk about themselves and share each other. Based on my analysis before, Hazel feels depressed with her condition so she just spends her time at home. The one activity that she likes is reading.

“I reject that out of hand. Think of something you like. The first thing that comes to mind.” “Um. Reading?” “What do you read?” “Everything. From, like, hideous romance to pretentious fiction to poetry. Whatever.” “Do you write poetry, too?” “No. I don’t write.” “There!” Augustus almost shouted. “Hazel Grace, you are the only teenager in America who prefers reading poetry to writing it. This tells me so much. You read a lot of capital-G great books, don’t you?” “I guess?” (Green 7).

Based on the conversation above, August tries to find what special in Hazel. Then, Hazel recognizes that she prefers reading such as poetry and also novel. He thinks that just a few teenagers prefer to read, so that it can be something special about Hazel.

It wasn’t even that the book was so good or anything; it was just that the author, Peter Van Houten, seemed to understand me in weird and impossible ways. An Imperial Affliction was my book, in the way my body was my body and my thoughts were my thoughts. Even so, I told
Augustus. “My favorite book is probably An Imperial Affliction,” I said (Green 7).

Hazel likes the book because of the author. She thinks that Peter Van Houten can understand her through the story of his novel An Imperial Affliction. So that she said “An Imperial Affliction was my book, in the way my body was my body and my thoughts were my thoughts”, because that book tells about Anna, a girl who gets cancer “But it’s not a cancer book, because cancer books suck. Like, in cancer books, the cancer person starts a charity that raises money to fight cancer, right? And this commitment to charity reminds the cancer person of the essential goodness of humanity and makes him/her feel loved and encouraged because s/he will leave a cancer-curing legacy. But in AIA, Anna decides that being a person with cancer who starts a cancer charity is a bit narcissistic, so she starts a charity called The Anna Foundation for People with Cancer Who Want to Cure Cholera.” (Green 12). But the book ends right in the middle of a sentence. Hazel wants to meet her favorite author, Peter Van Houten, because she wants to know more what the next story of An Imperial Affliction novel.

From the analysis above, I reveal that Hazel as a round character who has a changing characterization. She is characterized in The Fault in Our Stars as a pessimistic girl. She thinks that her life will be the end since she got cancer. Therefore, her parents ask her to join with supporting group. It makes her struggle better than before, especially since Hazel meets with August. Although she got cancer she has to be struggling to fulfil her needs. First, she argues that based on Maslow’s theory, she just stop in second level which is safety and security needs.
But, actually I see the struggle of Hazel to fulfil her needs as like as adolescent normally.

3.2 Hazel’s Struggle to Fulfil Her Needs Based on Hierarchy of Needs

*The Fault in Our Stars* tells about Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen years old girl who gets thyroid cancer. She has to wear nasal cannula and hold oxygen tank everywhere, because it can help her to breathe normally. As the adolescent, she has an expectation. The expectation is she wants to search *An Imperial Affliction*’s author, Peter Van Houten, who is her favorite author. Furthermore, she believes that her cancer cannot stop her to meet Peter. She has a close friend named Augustus who helps her to meet Peter. Then, in her searching, she has to fulfil her needs in hierarchy viewed to Maslow’s theory.

Therefore, I use hierarchy of human needs of Abraham H. Maslow to analyze the main character needs. Maslow explains that along with the many needs arising, the individual must determine which ones have to be satisfied right away and which ones can be satisfied later (Maslow 52). By applying the stages in Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, I will reveal the aspect that influences Hazel to have strong motivation. It starts from the explanation of Hazel’s physiological needs, followed by her safety and security needs, love and belongingness needs, self-esteem needs, and the last is self actualization needs.
3.2.1 Hazel’s Physiological Needs

The physiological need is the lowest stage in hierarchy of needs. These include needs that are of prime importance to the immediate survival of the individual, for instance the need for food, water, air, and sleep (Larsen 346). The condition of Hazel is “I told Augustus the broad outline of my miracle: diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer when I was thirteen” (Green 5).

Hazel has a surgery called radical neck dissection, radiation and also tried some chemo for her lung tumors. The tumors shrank, and then grew. By then, she is fourteen years old. Her lungs started to fill up with water and she looks pretty dead. Hazel also gets the drug that makes her does not feel so completely terrified about the fact that she cannot breathe and she has a lot of it flowing into her through a PICC line, and more than a dozen other drugs besides. After that, Hazel ends up in the ICU with pneumonia and her parents suppose that their daughter will die.

Then, the miracle happens to Hazel. Her cancer doctor, Dr. Maria, manages to get some of the fluid out of her lungs and shortly thereafter the antibiotics they give her for the pneumonia kicked in.

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. 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. Admittedly, my Cancer Miracle had only resulted in a bit of purchased time. (I did not yet know the size of the bit.) (Green 5).
Hazel wakes up and gets some experimental trials. This experiment is not working well about seventy percents of others cancer people but it works to Hazel well and her tumor shrank. Phalanxifor is the medical experimental that Hazel gets. “Huzzah, Phalanxifor! In the past eighteen months, my mets have hardly grown, leaving me with lungs that suck at being lungs” (Green 5). Hazel can be struggle for her life with the assistance of daily Phalanxifor and drizzled oxygen.

Then, Hazel does her life normally “I went about my life: I met Kaitlyn and her (cute but frankly not Augustinian) boyfriend for coffee one afternoon; I ingested my recommended daily allowance of Phalanxifor” (Green 16). She has to consume daily Phalanxifor that has already recommended to her. Hazel is not only need Phalanxifor but also need oxygen. She hurts to breathe normally:

It always hurt not to breathe like a normal person, incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs, forcing yourself to accept as unsolvable the clawing scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation. So I wasn’t lying, exactly. I was just choosing among truths (Green 10)

Hazel hurts to breathe like normal person. Her statement “incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs” means how is her struggle to remind that her lung does not work normally. So, to fulfil her need for breathing normally, she has to use nasal cannula and oxygen everywhere:

The cylindrical green tank only weighed a few pound, 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
nostriels. The contraption was necessary because my lungs sucked at being lungs. (Green 2)

Hazel fulfils her need of breathe by using nasal cannula that is a transparent tube that split just beneath her neck, wrapped behind her ears, and then reunited in her nostrils. It is connected to cylindrical green tank of oxygen. From this assistance, Hazel can breathe like normal person.

After Hazel fulfils her need for breathing with assistance of phalanxifor and oxygen, she also manages her time for sleep. Hazel also gives more time to sleep well.

So I got up late the next morning, a Thursday. Mom’s policy was never to wake me up, because of the job requirements of Professional Sick Person is sleeping a lot, so I was kind of confused at first when I jolted awake with her hands on my shoulders.

“It’s almost ten,” she said. “Sleep fights cancer,” I said. (Green 17)

From the quotation above, it shows Hazel has to fulfil her need for sleep. Her mom does not wake her up because she understands that Hazel need to sleep more. Because of her lung cancer she cannot do many activities so that Hazel believes sleep fights cancer. She also recognizes that she is a teenager who has special requirements:

I slept for a long time, ten hours, possibly because of the slow recovery and possibly because sleep fights cancer and possibly because I was a teenager with no particular wake-up time. I wasn’t strong enough yet to go back to classes at MCC. When I finally felt like getting up, I removed the BiPAP snout from my nose, put my oxygen nubbins in, turned them on,
and then grabbed my laptop from beneath my bed, where I’d stashed it the night before. (Green 8)

It seems that Hazel has already accustomed with her condition. She needs more time to sleep that is to recover her. Hazel has to manage her time for sleeping well after get some treatment from her doctors. fulfilled her need for sleep.

Next, Hazel has to manage her foods. She eats some vegetarian food, “Sunday night, we had pizza with green peppers and broccoli” (Green 16). Hazel has already accustomed to eat vegetarian at home. She also keeps her food at the outside, it is like happens when she comes to Augustus Waters’ house:

“You’re joining us for dinner, I hope?” asked his mom. She was small and brunette and vaguely mousy. “I guess?” I said. “I have to be home by ten. Also I don’t, um, eat meat?” “No problem. We’ll vegetarianize some,” she said. “Animals are just too cute?” Gus asked. (Green 7)

From the conversation above, I see that Hazel keep her food. It shows from Hazel rejects Augustus’ parents to dinner which the menu is meat. Hazel says that she does not eat meat and Augustus’ parents offer the vegetarian food. “An hour into the movie, Augustus’s parents came in and served us the enchiladas, which we ate on the couch, and they were pretty delicious” (Green 7). It seems although she gets disease in her body; she still tastes the food that she eats.

Hazel also can fulfil her need for food outside. Her mom sometimes gives her freedom to go outside.
Mom drove me directly from school to the bookstore attached to the mall, where I purchased both Midnight Dawns and Requiem for Mayhem, the first two sequels to The Price of Dawn, and then I walked over to the huge food court and bought a Diet Coke. It was 3:21. (Green 10)

Hazel chooses to buy diet coke. Those are her chooses to be vegetarian and how Hazel keeps her health by choosing her food well. Hazel’s need for food has already fulfilled.

The next need is sex. According to Maslow, one thing that must be stressed at this point is that love is not synonymous with sex. Sex may be studied as a purely physiological need. (Maslow 44). In this novel, the Hazel realizes her condition in hospital with other children, “I laughed again, and told him that having most of your social engagements occur at a children’s hospital also did not encourage promiscuity...” (Green 37). It is impossible things for them as the victim of cancer to think about promiscuity.

As the adolescent, Hazel needs for fulfil her need of sex when she is in Amsterdam with Augustus. Although she got cancer, she still has desire as the teenager to get sex with her sweetheart. At the beginning of Hazel relation with August, she worries that her desire to kiss or make love with him just for her way to get free trip:

Then I found myself worrying I would have to make out with him to get to Amsterdam, which is not the kind of thing you want to be thinking, because (a) It shouldn’t’ve even been a question whether I wanted to kiss him, and (b) Kissing someone so that you can get a free trip is perilously close to full-on hooking, and I have to confess that while I did not fancy myself a particularly good person, I never thought my first real sexual action would be prostitutional. (Green 30)
In fact, August loves Hazel ingenuously. He does everything what he can do for Hazel. Then, they make love when they are on trip to Amsterdam and forget that they are teenagers who get cancer. They understand and praise each other.

We were lying on our backs next to each other, everything hidden by the covers, and after a second I reached over for his thigh and let my hand trail downward to the stump, the thick scarred skin. I held the stump for a second. He flinched. “It hurts?” I asked. “No,” he said. He flipped himself onto his side and kissed me. “You’re so hot,” I said, my hand still on his leg. (Green 56)

From the explanation above, it is clear the struggle of Hazel to fulfil her needs for breathing normally, sleeping, eating and getting sex. Therefore, it can be concluding that Hazel has already fulfilled her needs even she has to be struggle to reach it.

3.2.2 Hazel’s Safety and Security Needs

The previous analysis has shown that Hazel’s basic needs are already fulfilled. However, those needs seem to give significant effect towards Hazel having a strong motivation. According to Maslow, when the first stage that is the physiological needs is satisfied, the new need will emerge and so on. Safety and security needs come to the next in hierarchy of needs. This need which may categorize roughly as the safety needs are having a place to live, security, stability, dependency, protection, freedom from fear, from anxiety, and so on.
(Maslow 39). In order to move up the hierarchy, a person must have his or her basic psychological needs met.

Based on the statement above, that also happens to Hazel. Hazel can breathe normally with the assistance of oxygen and Phalanxifor, she also always manage her sleep time and her food well. Therefore, she wants to fulfil her next needs, safety and security needs come next in the primary hierarchy. Include her safety of her cancer.

One of the needs that she wants to reach is the freedom. In this case, freedom for Hazel means she wants to do everything by herself. Hazel’s mom always accompanies her everywhere. “I liked my mom, but her perpetual nearness sometimes made me feel weirdly nervous (Green 10).”

“Fine, I’m sorry, just please let me do this.” They didn’t say anything. Mom just sat there with her arms folded, not even looking at me. After a while, I got up and went to my room to write about Augustus. Both Mom and Dad tried a few times to knock on the door or whatever, but I just told them I was doing something important. It took me forever to figure out what I wanted to say, and even then I wasn’t very happy with it. Before I’d technically finished, I noticed it was 7:40, which meant that I would be late even if I didn’t change, so in the end I wore baby blue cotton pajama pants, flip-flops, and Gus’s Butler shirt. I walked out of the room and tried to go right past them, but my dad said, “You can’t leave the house without permission.” “Oh, my God, Dad. He wanted me to write him a eulogy, okay? I’ll be home every. Freaking. Night. Starting any day now, okay?” That finally shut them up. (Green 64)

From the quotation above seems Hazel wants to ask her freedom. She wants to do what she wants. She started to demands her time for her friends, Augustus. “Mom. I don’t need you like I used to. You’re the one who needs to get a life (Green 64).”
Next, after she wants to get her freedom, she wants to get her secure. It happens after Hazel plans to go to Amsterdam to meet her favorite author, She gets sick again and she is in ICU because her lung swims in fluid, “I did not have a brain tumor, but that my headache was caused by poor oxygenation, which was caused by my lungs swimming in fluid, a liter and a half (!!!!) of which had been successfully drained from my chest” (Green 26). She saves from her cancer because she gets medical treatment. After six days she is in ICU, she can go home. August tells her that Peter replies the letter that was sent by August. “No, the good news is that while you were sleeping, Peter Van Houten shared a bit more of his brilliant brain with us.” (Green 27). Hazel feels happy and thinks that she has to get good condition to meet Peter in Amsterdam. So, she asks to her mom:

“Mom,” I said. I did not say it loudly, but I didn’t have to. She was always waiting. She peeked her head around the door. “You okay, sweetie?” “Can we call Dr. Maria and ask if international travel would kill me?” (Green 29)

Hazel needs to fulfil her needs for security. This security means her safety for her health. She is not in good condition to flight to Amsterdam. So, she asks to her cancer doctor, Dr. Maria. It is because she will have international travel. Hazel needs to ask Doctor Maria and others opinion about the safety. Then the cancer doctor team makes a meeting about Hazel’s safety.

We had a big Cancer Team Meeting a couple days later. Every so often, a bunch of doctors and social workers and physical therapists and whoever else got together around a big table in a conference room and discussed my situation.(Green 28)
The doctors, social worker, and physical therapists have a meeting to
discuss Hazel’s situation. They discuss about how Hazel’s condition if she still
wants to go to Amsterdam. It also about how is the safety flight especially for the
availability of oxygen. Actually, Hazel feels better by using BiPAP, “I felt a little
better, I guess. Sleeping with the BiPAP all night made my lungs feel almost
normal, although, then again, I did not really remember lung normality.” (Green
28). So, Hazel asks to Dr. Simons as her other cancer doctor:

At the end, I asked if I could travel to Amsterdam, and Dr. Simons
actually and literally laughed, but then Dr. Maria said, “Why not?” And
Simons said, dubiously, “Why not?” And Dr. Maria said, “Yeah, I don’t
see why not. They’ve got oxygen on the planes, after all.” Dr. Simons said,
“Are they just going to gate-check a BiPAP?” And Maria said, “Yeah, or
have one waiting for her.” (Green 28)

The doctors say that Hazel may go to Amsterdam in eight hours with the
assistance of BiPAP that will be provided in the plane. The problem of Hazel’s
need for breathe and about her condition has been cleared, the doctors give her
permit but it will be her choice, she wants to go Amsterdam or not. Actually,
Hazel’s parents worry with their daughter safety.

Except not really. On the car ride home, my parents agreed: I would not be
going to Amsterdam unless and until there was medical agreement that it
would be safe. (Green 38)

Hazel still on her struggle, she wants to go to Amsterdam to meet Peter,
her favorite author. It can be seen when she says to August “’Cause I’m just—I
want to go to Amsterdam, and I want him to tell me what happens after the book
is over, and I just don’t want my particular life, (Green 29). Although the doctors said that she will safe flight on her international travel, but her parents worry about her condition. Hazel still needs a private doctor to accompany her.

“Placing a patient—one of the most promising Phalanxifor survivors, no less—an eight-hour flight from the only physicians intimately familiar with her case? That’s a recipe for disaster.” Dr. Maria shrugged. “It would increase some risks,” she acknowledged, but then turned to me and said, “But it’s your life.”

It seems that Dr. Maria gives permit to Hazel but it will be big risk if she does not have someone who accompanies her and know about the doses of Phalanxifor. “Dr. Maria said I couldn’t go to Amsterdam without an adult intimately familiar with my case, which more or less meant either Mom or Dr. Maria herself.” (Green 22). Her dad understands her cancer the way She did: in the vague and incomplete way people understand electrical circuits and ocean tides. But her mom knows more about differentiated thyroid carcinoma in adolescents than most oncologists. “So you’ll come,” I said. “The Genies will pay for it. The Genies are loaded.” Hazel gets e-mail from Peter’s assistant, Lidewij Vliegenthart. Lidewij said that she has already prepared to Hazel comes with her mother and August. Hazel thinks that she cannot go to Amsterdam, so she asks her mother to inform the Genies that the trip is off:

“Can you call the Genies and tell them the trip is off? I just got an email from Peter Van Houten’s assistant. She thinks we’re coming.” She pursed her lips and squinted past me. “What?” I asked. “I’m not supposed to tell you until your father gets home.” “What?” I asked again. “Trip’s on,” she said finally. “Dr. Maria called us last night and made a convincing case that you need to live your—” “MOM, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!” I shouted, and she came to the bed and let me hug her. (Green 31)
Hazel’s mom informs to Hazel that she can go to Amsterdam. It is also from the recommended of Dr. Maria that Hazel needs to live her life means that Hazel has to have good time for her joy. It can be seen that Hazel is very happy with her mom’s good news. Although Hazel gets cancer, she still can reach her expectation. Then, she thinks that she does not stuck on the second level of hierarchy of needs, as she says to August:

According to Maslow, I was stuck on the second level of the pyramid, unable to feel secure in my health and therefore unable to reach for love and respect and art and whatever else, which is, of course, utter horseshit: The urge to make art or contemplate philosophy does not go away when you are sick. Those urges just become transfigured by illness. (Green 51)

From the quotation above, means that Hazel believes that she can through the second level of hierarchy needs. She feels secure with the assistance of daily Phalanxifor, oxygen, and under a doctor’s order. She thinks that her cancer is not her obstacle to get her purpose.

According to the explanation above, it can be conclude that Hazel can fulfil her needs of safety and security. It can be seen from her struggle to have a freedom from her parents and her struggle to have good condition to go to Amsterdam. In this case, Hazel’s secure from her cancer with the assistance of daily Phalanxifor, oxygen, and under a doctor’s order. Therefore, the safety needs has already fulfilled and she needs to fulfil the next needs that is the love and belongingness needs.
3.2.3 Hazel’s Love and Belongingness Needs

The next stage of the hierarchy of needs is love and belongingness needs. After the physiological and the safety needs are fairly well gratified, then the human will emerge the next need that is the belongingness and love needs (Maslow 43). The love needs have been described in different ways: in terms of social relationships, connection with other people, and belonging to groups or partnerships (Reid 18).

After Hazel can breathe normally with the assistance of Phalanxifor and oxygen, get freedom from her parents and also secure for her health to go to Amsterdam, now she wants to get her love and belongingness needs. As the adolescence in general, Hazel is not only need social relationships, connection with other people, and belonging to groups but also needs family affection, friends, and sweetheart. This need is very important for Hazel, because she needs motivation from her close people. She feels depressed with her condition, so her mom asks her to join support group. It is because Hazel’s mom does not want her daughter just stay at home with no activity in the outside.

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 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: “UGGGGGGGGGGG.” Mom: “Hazel, you deserve a life.” Mom: “Hazel, you deserve a life.” (Green 1)
Hazel parents, especially her mom always supports her. Hazel mom always accompanies her everywhere Hazel goes. She hopes that Hazel can be a teenager like others teenagers. “Mom drove me directly from school to the bookstore attached to the mall, where I purchased both Midnight Dawns and Requiem for Mayhem, the first two sequels to The Price of Dawn” (Green 9). Her mom always makes Hazel like a teenager generally. The one mom’s hazel does for Hazel is asking Hazel to meet her close friend, Kaitlyn. “You don’t want to go to a movie with Kaitlyn or Matt or someone?” who were my friends. That was an idea. “Sure,” I said. “I’ll text Kaitlyn and see if she wants to go to the mall or something after school.” (Green 9). Hazel follows mom’s advice to meet up with Kaitlyn.

I texted Kaitlyn, took a shower, got dressed, and then Mom drove me to school. My class was American Literature, a lecture about Frederick Douglass in a mostly empty auditorium, and it was incredibly difficult to stay awake. Forty minutes into the ninety-minute class, Kaitlyn texted back. Awesomesauce. Happy Half Birthday. Castleton at 3:32? Kaitlyn had the kind of packed social life that needs to be scheduled down to the minute. I responded: Sounds good. I’ll be at the food court (Green 9).

Mom gives chance to Hazel to interact with others, Hazel is not only belongs to support group but also in collage. Although mom gives Hazel a freedom but she still controls her daughter, “Mom was also in the food court, alone, sitting in a corner where she thought I couldn’t see her, eating a cheese steak sandwich and reading through some papers. Medical stuff, probably. The paperwork was endless (Green 19). Her mom does everything for Hazel because she had not been
in proper school in three years. Her parents are her two best friends and third best friend is an author who does not know she exists.

After that, Hazel tries to obey her mom to meet Kaitlyn in food court. It shows that she still has a desire or struggle to have any relations with her friends. She wants to tell about her feeling to Kaitlyn but feels that she does not proper to talk about boy. Hazel is a fairly shy person:

“I thought of telling her that I was seeing a boy, too, or at least that I’d watched a movie with one, just because I knew it would surprise and amaze her that anyone as disheveled and awkward and stunted as me could even briefly win the affections of a boy. But I didn’t really have much to brag about, so I just shrugged (Green 10)

Hazel has gotten love from her parents. Then, Hazel also wants to get love from her boyfriend. After her meeting in supported group with August, she tries to make friendship with August. It is shown in her first meeting with August; she gives eye contact back to August:

It occurred to me why they call it eye contact. I walked into 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 is, at best, awkward and, at worst, a form of assault. But a hot boy . . . well.. (Green 2)

Hazel does not believe to Abraham Maslow’s theory that she just stuck in second level. Hazel thinks that she loves August. August loves Hazel too, so they love each other. It looks from their conversation below:

“What?” Augustus asked after a while. “Nothing,” I said. “I’m just . . .” I couldn’t finish the sentence, didn’t know how to. “I’m just very, very fond of you.” He smiled with half his mouth, his nose inches from mine. “The
feeling is mutual. I don’t suppose you can forget about it and treat me like I’m not dying.” “I don’t think you’re dying,” I said. “I think you’ve just got a touch of cancer.” He smiled. Gallows humor. “I’m on a roller coaster that only goes up,” he said. “And it is my privilege and my responsibility to ride all the way up with you,” I said. “Would it be absolutely ludicrous to try to make out?” “There is no try,” I said. “There is only do.” (Green 52)

From the conversation above shows that August loves Hazel ingenuously. He does not treat her like someone who will die. So, Hazel feels that she can get love from someone who she loves too. She thinks that cancer will over her life because she will not feel secure with her disease. But Hazel proves that she can get her purpose to meet her favorite author.

Maslow’s pyramid seemed to imply that I was less human than other people, and most people seemed to agree with him. But not Augustus. I always thought he could love me because he’d once been sick. Only now did it occur to me that maybe he still was. (Green 51)

August helps her to meet her favorite author by sending e-mail to Peter’s assistant. Hazel tries to send e-mail by herself; she tells that she wants to know more about the next story of An Imperial Affliction. Then, Peter replies her e-mail through his assistant e-mail, Lidewij and he said that he gives Hazel chance to go to Amsterdam, Peter’s house. Peter will tell more about the story directly. After knowing that, Hazel feels so surprising:

I imagined sitting at a sun-drenched café with Peter Van Houten as he leaned across the table on his elbows, speaking in a soft voice so no one else would hear the truth of what happened to the characters I’d spent years thinking about. He’d said he couldn’t tell me except in person, and then invited me to Amsterdam. I explained this to Mom, and then said, “I have to go.” “Hazel, I love you, and you know I’d do anything for you, but we don’t—we don’t have the money for international travel, and the expense of getting equipment
over there—love, it’s just not—” “Yeah,” I said, cutting her off. I realized I’d been silly even to consider it. “Don’t worry about it.” But she looked worried. “It’s really important to you, yeah?” she asked, sitting down, a hand on my calf. “It would be pretty amazing,” I said, “to be the only person who knows what happens besides him.” “That would be amazing,” she said. “I’ll talk to your father.” “No, don’t,” I said. “Just, seriously, don’t spend any money on it please. I’ll think of something.”

The conversation above shows Hazel’s parents’ love to Hazel. They want to make their daughter happy but they have limited financial to make real Hazel’s dream.

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. I told Mom I wanted to call Augustus to get her out of the room, because I couldn’t handle her I-can’t-make-my-daughter’s-dreams-come-true sad face.

Hazel also loves her parents too, she does not want make her parents sad about her expectation to meet Peter in Amsterdam. She thinks that her cancer makes difficult her parents especially for their financial. But, August tries to help Hazel through ask for helping to the Genie. “Augustus, really?” He reached over and touched my cheek and for a moment I thought he might kiss me. My body tensed, and I think he saw it, because he pulled his hand away.” (Green 21). So, Hazel’s dream will come true.

From the explanation above, I see that Hazel has struggle and believes that she needs the belongingness and loving needs. Hazel gets belonging needs from her parents, friends, and sweetheart, August. Therefore, she also has strong effort to make people around her happy by her loving them.
3.2.4 Hazel’s Self-Esteem Needs

When the physiological, safety, and love needs are satisfied, a set of needs relating to esteem and self respect emerge as primary determinants of human behavior (Reid 19). According to Randy J. Larsen in *Personality Psychology*, there are two types of esteem, they are esteem from others and self-esteem. Self-esteem means that people want to feel good about them, to feel that they are worthwhile, valuable, and competent. Esteem from others means that people want to be seen by others as competent, strong, and able to achieve. They also want to be respected by others for our achievements and their abilities.

First is self-esteem of Hazel. In this case, Hazel wants the desire for confidence to face her life. This is reflected when Hazel’s parents ask her to interact with others for instance her close friend, Kaitlyn. She feels depressed because of her cancer, she thinks that other people just pity on her condition. Moreover, it is very hard for Hazel becomes a teenager who gets cancer and she has to wear nasal cannula and hold oxygen tank everywhere. She feels awkward when she interacts with others around her. She also feels alone just lonely.

Any attempts to feign normal social interactions were just depressing because it was so glaringly obvious that everyone I spoke to for the rest of my life would feel awkward and self-conscious around me, except maybe kids like Jackie who just didn’t know any better. Anyway, I really did like being alone. I liked being alone with poor Staff Sergeant Max Mayhem, who—oh, come on, he’s not going to survive these seventeen bullet wounds, is he? (Spoiler alert: He lives.) (Green 11)
Then, one moment make her thought different. The moment is when Hazel accompanies August and Isaac to go to Monica’s house. They want to help Isaac to revenge his revenge to Monica who was his ex girlfriend.

I helped him to stand and then offered my arm to Isaac, guiding him past furniture that suddenly seemed intrusive, realizing that, for the first time in years, I was the healthiest person in the room. (Green 54)

Hazel feels very thankful because realizes that she is a healthiest person among Isaac and August. Isaac becomes blind and August is difficult to walk normally.

Second, the esteem from others is very important for Hazel. Here, Hazel has a hobby that is reading fiction either novel or poetry. August is very respect to Hazel’s hobby; he thinks a teenager in this world who likes reading fiction is rarely.

“I reject that out of hand. Think of something you like. The first thing that comes to mind.” “Um. Reading?” “What do you read?” “Everything. From, like, hideous romance to pretentious fiction to poetry. Whatever.” “Do you write poetry, too?” “No. I don’t write.” “There!” Augustus almost shouted. “Hazel Grace, you are the only teenager in America who prefers reading poetry to writing it. This tells me so much. You read a lot of capital-G great books, don’t you?” “I guess?” (Green 7)

The reason why does Hazel like reading, it is not only because of she has free long time but also because she likes a book of Peter Van Houten. Through Peter’s novel, Hazel thinks that he likes know her condition in the real world.

It wasn’t even that the book was so good or anything; it was just that the author, Peter Van Houten, seemed to understand me in weird and
impossible ways. An Imperial Affliction was my book, in the way my body was my body and my thoughts were my thoughts. Even so, I told Augustus. “My favorite book is probably An Imperial Affliction,” I said (Green 7).

Hazel recognized that *An Imperial Affliction* is not a cancer book, because cancer books suck. Usually, in cancer books tell a person who gets cancer starts a charity that raises money to fight cancer but in *An Imperial Affliction* is different. “But in A I A , Anna decides that being a person with cancer who starts a cancer charity is a bit narcissistic, so she starts a charity called The Anna Foundation for People with Cancer Who Want to Cure Cholera.” (Green 12). This book also reflects to what Hazel’s feel as the teenager who got cancer:

As a three-year survivor of Stage IV cancer, I can tell you that you got everything right in An Imperial Affliction. Or at least you got me right. Your book has a way of telling me what I’m feeling before I even feel it, and I’ve reread it dozens of times. (Green 17)

The statement above is the quotation of Hazel’s letter to Peter. Hazel shows that she has survived for her stage IV cancer. Moreover, she feels that her story was told by Peter in the novel. Her dream to meet Peter will come true. It makes her happier than before. She makes friends with Isaac and other friends in support group then she also meet up with August and so on.

“You’re being very teenagery today,” Mom said. She seemed annoyed about it. “Isn’t this what you wanted, Mom? For me to be teenagery?” “Well, not necessarily this kind a teenagery, but of course your father and I are excited to see you become a young woman, making friends, going on dates.” (Green)
Mom recognizes that her daughter has been a teenager like others. After she gets confession from her mother that she becomes like a teenager, she also gets from her friend in support group about her struggle:

It was Lida the Strong. Lida in remission. Blond, healthy, stout Lida, who swam on her high school swim team. Lida, missing only her appendix, saying my name, saying, “Hazel is such an inspiration to me; she really is. She just keeps fighting the battle, waking up every morning and going to war without complaint. She’s so strong. She’s so much stronger than I am. I just wish I had her strength.” (Green 32)

From the statement of Lida, it shows Hazel’s struggle and strong to keep fighting her condition. Lida recognizes that Hazel is an inspiration to her about Hazel’s strong and Lida wants to have struggle like Hazel. Hazel has esteem from others that she is being the other inspiration.

### 3.2.5 Hazel’s Self-Actualization Needs

After all these needs are satisfied, people may still often expect that a new discontent and restlessness will soon develop unless the individual is doing what he wants to do individually (Maslow 46). Maslow also states that people who try to reach the goal in their lives will do anything and it can bring effects to their behavior or personality. The effect of their motivation towards their personality can be seen either positive or negative.

In this case, Hazel shows her self-actualization through her struggle for her condition to meet, Peter Van Houten, her favorite author. She wants to know what
will happen after the ending story of the novel *An Imperial Affliction*. It is because the story stopped in the middle of sentence.

Finally, Hazel goes to Amsterdam and she is accompanied by her mom and August. All of their payment has guaranteed by the Genie. Hazel feels very happy because her expectation to know the ends story of her favorite novel comes true and she feels nervous. She goes to Peter’s house with August only because her mom just wants to take a vacation alone.

As it got closer to ten, I grew more and more nervous: nervous to see Augustus; nervous to meet Peter Van Houten; nervous that my outfit was not a good outfit; nervous that we wouldn’t find the right house since all the houses in Amsterdam looked pretty similar; nervous that we would get lost and never make it back to the Filosoof; nervous nervous nervous.

Mom kept trying to talk to me, but I couldn’t really listen. I was about to ask her to go upstairs and make sure Augustus was up when he knocked. (Green 43)

August and Hazel go to Peter’s house based on the direction that was given by Lidewij. After that they find Peter’s house and it is not far from the hotel they lived.

Peter Van Houten’s white row house was just around the corner from the hotel, on the Vondelstraat, facing the park. Number 158. Augustus took me by one arm and grabbed the oxygen cart with the other, and we walked up the three steps to the lacquered blue-black front door. My heart pounded. One closed door away from the answers I’d dreamed of ever since I first read that last unfinished page. (Chapter 43)

Then, Hazel and August meet with Peter. There is also Lidewij, Peter’s assistant. Peter shocks because he thinks that he never invite Hazel and August but Lidewij remind him that he invited August and Hazel to go to his house. After that
Peter asks them to go into his room. Hazel looks there is so many letters in his room, she consider that is trash.

“Trash?” I mumbled to Augustus soft enough that I thought no one else would hear. “Fan mail,” Van Houten answered as he sat down in the lounge chair. “Eighteen years’ worth of it. Can’t open it. Terrifying. Yours are the first missives to which I have replied, and look where that got me. I frankly find the reality of readers wholly unappetizing.” (Green 44)

From Peter’s said above, it shows that there are so many letters sent to him and he only replied the letter from August and Hazel. They are so surprised and Hazel becomes understand why Peter never replied her letters. After they talk each other, Hazel feel some strange to Peter because he talks not to the point but she does not obey it. Then, she tries to defend her questions:

“No, that is not acceptable,” I said. “I understand that the story ends midnarrative because Anna dies or becomes too sick to continue, but you said you would tell us what happens to everybody, and that’s why we’re here, and we, I need you to tell me.” Van Houten sighed. After another drink, he said, “Very well. Whose story do you seek?” “Anna’s mom, the Dutch Tulip Man, Sisyphus the Hamster, I mean, just—what happens to everyone.” (Green 45)

Actually, Peter is very difficult to explain what happens for the next of the story. Then, Peter answered the Hazel’s question about Ana’s hamster, Sisyphus. Hazel thinks that is somewhere.

Van Houten closed his eyes and puffed his cheeks as he exhaled, then looked up at the exposed wooden beams crisscrossing the ceiling. “The hamster,” he said after a while. “The hamster gets adopted by Christine”—who was one of Anna’s presickness friends. That made sense. Christine and Anna played with Sisyphus in a few scenes. “He is adopted by
Christine and lives for a couple years after the end of the novel and dies peacefully in his hamster sleep.” (Chapter 45)

One of Hazel’s questions was answered by Peter that is about Ana’s hamster and she feels satisfied. Therefore, she asks the others questions. “Great. Okay, so the Dutch Tulip Man. Is he a con man? Do he and Anna’s mom get married?” (Green 45). But, for the next question could not answer by Peter:

Van Houten was still staring at the ceiling beams. He took a drink. The glass was almost empty again. “Lidewij, I can’t do it. I can’t. I can’t.” He leveled his gaze to me. “Nothing happens to the Dutch Tulip Man. He isn’t a con man or not a con man; he’s God. He’s an obvious and unambiguous metaphorical representation of God, and asking what becomes of him is the intellectual equivalent of asking what becomes of the disembodied eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg in Gatsby. Do he and Anna’s mom get married? We are speaking of a novel, dear child, not some historical enterprise.” (Green 45)

Hazel does not suppose that her meeting with Peter will be like that. Peter does not give Hazel some answers about Ana and Ana’s mother. Hazel feels disappointed with Peter and August asks her to leave Peter’s house.

Mom, Hazel, and August leave Amsterdam. A few days later after their trip to Amsterdam, August’s has really bad condition. Finally, August has died. Hazel feels very sad; this moment makes a biting for her. When the funeral ceremony is going on, Hazel is very shock because Peter comes to that moment. “I was pretty surprised that Peter Van Houten had flown halfway across the world to attend a funeral. “How did you even—” I started, but he cut me off” (Green 69).
Moreover, Hazel still has some questions that Peter not answers yet. She asks about his novel more and she know how Peter can know more about a child who gets cancer because it happens to her daughter.

You had a kid who died?” “My daughter,” he said. “She was eight. Suffered beautifully. Will never be beatified.” “She had leukemia?” I asked. He nodded. “Like Anna,” I said. “Very much like her, yes.” “You were married?” “No. Well, not at the time of her death. I was insufferable long before we lost her. Grief does not change you, Hazel. It reveals you.” “Did you live with her?” “No, not primarily, although at the end, we brought her to New York, where I was living, for a series of experimental tortures that increased the misery of her days without increasing the number of them.” After a second, I said, “So it’s like you gave her this second life where she got to be a teenager.” “I suppose that would be a fair assessment,” he said, and then quickly added, “I assume you are familiar with Philippa Foot’s Trolley Problem thought experiment?” “And then I show up at your house and I’m dressed like the girl you hoped she would live to become and you’re, like, all taken aback by it.” (Green 72)

After knowing about the novel, Peter says that August has already said something with him. Hazel does not care with his speaks, but she thinks August may left a letter for her. Then, she asks Lidewij to help her for searching August’s letter to Peter. Finally, Hazel does not suppose that August very loves her so much after she read his letter to Peter. Hazel’s mom said to her that “You of all people know it is possible to live with pain.” (Green 75). Then, Hazel still alive.

From the analysis above, it can be seen that the main purpose of human can bring them to be struggle or motivate to reach their expectation. It also shows that every people can reach her expectation in their own ways. Although Hazel is a teenager who gets IV stage cancer, she proves that she can struggle for her life
and reach what she wants. Moreover, if physiological needs have not been satisfied, it will be making the main character efforts to fulfil it. The desire to fulfil the lower level will emerge after the previous needs are satisfied. Then it can bring effects to people’s behavior or personality.