THE TRUE MEANING OF MARGO ROTH SPIEGLEMAN’S
BIG DECISION TO LEAVE THE TOWN AS SEEN
IN JOHN GREEN’S PAPER TOWNS

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

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A Sarjana Pendidikan Thesis on

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DEDICATION PAGE

“Sometimes, the way you think about a person isn’t the way they actually are. People are different when you can smell them and see them up close.”
--Margo in Paper Towns

“Leaving feels good and pure only when you love something important. Something that mattered to you. Pulling life out by the roots. But you can’t do that until your life has grown roots.”
--Margo in Paper Towns

“The town was paper, but the memories were not.”
--Margo in Paper Towns

I dedicate this thesis to:

My Family
My Beloved People in My Life
All people and friends who always give me support since the beginning of my life
STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this thesis, which I have written, does not contain the work or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, 25 July 2016
The Writer

Kasih Ratnaningtyas
LEMBAR PERYATAAN PERSETUJUAN
PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya mahasiswa Universitas Sanata Dharma

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Demi mengembangkan ilmu pengetahuan, saya memberikan kepada perpustakaan Sanata Dharma karya Ilmiah ini yang berjudul:

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Kasih Ratnaningtyas
ABSTRACT

Ratnaningtyas, Kasih. (2016). The True meaning of Margo Roth Spiegleman's Big Decision to Leave the Town as Seen in John Green’s Paper Towns. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

This study analyzes a novel entitled Paper Towns written by John Green. The goal of conducting this study is to identify the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegleman big decision to leave her hometown. To achieve the goal, this study focuses on two questions: (1) How is Margo Roth Spiegleman described in the novel? (2) What is the true meaning of Margo’s decision to leave her hometown?

This study uses psychological approach to answer the questions. In this study, two sources are used. The primary source was Paper Town novel by John Green. The secondary sources are electronic sources and books on character and characterization in literature, motivation, and deeper meaning of Margo’s big decision.

There are two findings of the study. The first finding is about Margo’s description. Margo is introvert, smart, fearless, risk-taking, and stereotypical. The second finding is the true meaning of Margo’s decision. At first, Margo does not realize that her ex-boyfriend is cheating on her. Soon, after the revenge, Margo starts to realize that she never wants to live in her home town. The true meaning of Margo’s decision is that she tries to cover up her bad feeling, escaping from her inner problems.

It is recommended that the future researchers analyze the metaphors used in the Paper Towns. It is also suggested that the novel can be used as the material to teach Prose, Drama, or Play Performance.

Keyword: personality, motivation, true meaning.
ABSTRAK


Penelitian ini menganalisis sebuah novel berjudul Paper Towns yang ditulis oleh John Green. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi arti sebenarnya dari keputusan besar Margo Roth Spieglenen meninggalkan kota kelahirannya. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, penelitian ini berfokus pada dua pertanyaan : (1) Bagaimana Margo Roth Spiegleman digambarkan dalam novel ?, (2) Apa arti sebenarnya dari keputusan Margo untuk meninggalkan kota nya?


Kata kunci: personality, motivation, true meaning.
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Best regards,

Kasih Ratnaningtyas
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the study problem formulation, and definition of terms. First, the background of the study explains the reason why the writer chose *Paper Towns* as the primary data. The second part contains problem formulation. This part formulates the problems which are going to be discussed and analyzed. There are two problems discussed in this study. The next part is the objective of the study. This part focuses on the purposes of the study which have a relation with the formulated problems in this study. The last is the definition of terms. In order to avoid misunderstanding and misconception of this study, the specific terms in this study are defined.

A. Background of the Study

As human being, people live in a society. There are many kinds of people in environment. They also have different characteristics, personalities, and habits. These kind of differences are formed because of their different experience in life. Some of them may have good experiences and the others may have bad experiences. By learning from someone’s experience, people can get moral value to be applied in life, so that people have a better life. It also makes people be more sensitive towards phenomenon around their lives. However, learning about someone’s experience is not only from the environment, but also from literary work such as a novel. It is supported by Abrams (1981) who says that literature as
an imitation, reflection, or representation of the world and human life (p. 36). Literature has a strong connection to human’s life. Literature is a kind of reflection of human’s life, it can be in form of personal experiences.

There are many kinds of phenomenon around human life, that can be portrayed in a novel. A good novel does not only give moral value to the readers, but also give true meaning of a term to the readers to be reflected. A novel is usually written by an author based on reality. However, the author sometimes uses his or her imagination to make the novel interesting and meaningful. One of good novel that can give moral values can be found in one of John Green’s works, Paper Towns.

This novel tells about Margo, a girl with a self-centered attitude, who has mysterious behavior and mysterious life. This novel teaches the readers on two major life lessons. First, people change dramatically over time. Second, people should never stereotype someone’s life just because of how they appear. Margo’s behavior shows the connection of human life and the barriers in understanding one another.

Actually, that kind of phenomenon also happens in our life. People as human beings have passions, desires, wishes, and also dreams in their lives. They also have their own problems and obstacles to be faced. Some people are desperate when they fail and others are still tough in continuing their lives.

Paper Towns debuted at number five on the New York Time bestseller list for children’s book and was awarded the 2009 Edgar Award for best young adult novel. A film adaption was released on July 24, 2015.
B. **Objective of the Study**

The objective of this study is to find the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman’s big decision to leave her home town.

C. **Problem Formulation**

There are two problems formulation which will be discussed in this study.

1. How is Margo, the main character at John Green’s Paper Towns described?
2. What is the true meaning of Margo’s big decision?

D. **Definition of Terms**

Definition of terms is used to avoid misunderstanding between the writer and the readers. There are some terms that will help the readers to understand the meaning namely character, meaning, and personality.

1. **Character**

A character is the person who acts and experiences things in the story. Every character has morality and emotional as seen in what she/he does or what she/he wants to say in the dialog of the story. According to Abram (1993), characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, which are
interpreted by the reader and blessed with morality, dispositional, and emotion qualities which are expressed in the dialogue or in action (p.23).

2. **Meaning**

   Meaning is divided into two parts. First is literal meaning and the second is true meaning or deeper meaning. According to Blair and Gerber (1948), in an explicit statement of meaning, the author simply tells you or has an attractive character in expressing his point of view to tell you what the meaning is which he has in mind readers what the meaning is which he has in mind (p.111). Definition of deeper meaning according to Frederick (1964) is a meaning which is told for human sake because it is implicit (p.28).

3. **Personality**

   Personality is a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences their environment, cognitions, motivations, and behavioral science in various situations. Personality also refers to the pattern of thoughts, feelings, social adjustments, and a behavior consistently exhibited over time and strongly influences one's expectations, self- expectation, values, and attitudes. It also predicts human reactions to other people, problems, and stress. (Winnie and Gittinger (1973), Krauskopf & Saunders (1994). In this study, personality refers to the thoughts, feelings, social adjustments, and behavior that influence human perceptions.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the review of related theories, the theoretical framework, and the theories. Theories which are used in this study are the psychological approach, the theory of motivation, the theory of needs, the theory of character and characterization, the theory of personality, and the context of the novel. The theoretical review deals with some of the theories related to the meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman's big decision to leave her town. The theoretical framework is used to show how all these theories are applied for finding Margo Roth Spiegelman's motivation to reveal the true meaning of her decision.

A. Review of Related Theories

In this part, the writer discusses the literary theories that are used to analyze Green’s Paper Towns. They are the theory of psychological approach, the theory of motivation, and the theory of needs. Those theories are used to find the motivation behind Margo Roth Spiegelman's big decision.

1. Psychological Approach

According to Bressler (1998), literary works have many differences to understand. It means the reader may view a story or a novel from many angles.
This situation needs specific ability from the readers who want to analyze the literary works. It is not easy for readers to decide which angles will be analyzed. Guerin, Labor, Morgan, Reesman and Willingham (2011) state that various ideas in the novel will also result in various responses from the reader. To reveal that situation, the readers can use many perspectives to analyze the novel. In his book entitled *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, Guerin *et al.* (2011) claim that there are five approaches of literature. They are the traditional, formalist, mythological, historical, and psychological approach. In this study, the writer uses psychological approach to study the main character of *Paper Towns*.

According to Maslow as cited in Petri (1981), a psychological approach focuses on human motive as an individual to strive and to fulfill human potential (p. 301). It means that Maslow thinks that the main purpose of the life is the perfection of self-actualization. His research was done in order to approve that individual motivation is driven by needs.

Freud (2009) believes that personality is divided into three parts; the id, the ego, and the superego. Id is centered around primal impulses, desire, pleasure, and wish fulfillment of human. The ego is concerned about conscious, the rational, moral, and the self-awareness of the mind. Superego is a sensor for id and responsible to enforce the ego.
2. **Theory of Motivation**

According to Maslow cited in Petri (1981), motivation is the human’s action that is driven by a need to fulfill in order to achieve a higher purpose of life called self-actualization (pp.301-302).

Thompson (2013) states that someone is motivated when they are encouraged from outside or even from inside the individual itself to do, behave, learn, and react. Basically, for Thompson, the motive is the reason of the causes which highlight the individual to do or to achieve a specific behaviour.

Freud (2009) states that motivation comes from unconscious mind which is a desire to do something. Most of the people disavow all of their motivation, to make those motivations become real in conscious mind.

In addition, Freud (2009) states that motivation is a theoretical construction used to explain behavior. Motives are hypothetical construction used to explain why people do something or take a decision. The major contribution of Freud’s work shows how the motives that influence what people do in everyday life are often done unconsciously.

Jung (1987) divides psyche into three parts. Those part are ego, which can be identified as conscious mind, personal unconscious and collective unconscious mind. Collective unconscious mind is a part that contain human memories, experience, and knowledge. This collective unconscious mind affects human behaviour. It shapes someone’s motives to do something.
3. **Theory of Needs**

Maslow’s motivation theory states that man’s behavior is controlled by both internal and external factors. In addition, he emphasizes that humans have the unique ability to make choices and exercise free-will.

The theory of needs is driven from some findings of human needs. It is formulated by Maslow to give an answer towards the question of what is human motive in doing something. Through this research, Maslow believes that the power of motive of human to act is based on human needs. Maslow described human needs as a picture if a diagram or a hierarchy. Human is motivated from the lowest level up to the highest level of need. This model of hierarchy was created and developed by Abraham Maslow in 1940-1950 USA and the hierarchy of needs’ theory remains valid today for understanding human motivation.

![Human Needs Diagram by Maslow](image)

*Figure 1. Human Needs diagram by Maslow*
According to Maslow (1981), the human need is described in the stage of hierarchy. Maslow believes that human motivation could be best studied through human rather than an animal. His studies led him to the term of hierarchy of needs.

1. **Biological and Physiological needs**

   Physiological needs deal with the maintenance of human body. This lowest category includes the most basic needs that are vital to survive, such as the need of water, air, food, and sleep. Maslow believes that these needs are the most instinctive needs because all needs become secondary until these needs are met.

2. **Safety Needs**

   Safety and security needs are about keeping the human safe from harm. These needs include shelter, job security, health, and safe environments. If a person does not feel safe in an environment, they will seek to find safety before they attempt to meet any higher level needs. These security needs are important for survival, but they are not as important as the basic physiological needs.

3. **Belongingness and Love Needs**

   Safety and security needs advance human’s tribal nature. These are the needs for belonging, love, affection as well as for relationship with family, friends and companionship. These needs are met through pleasing and fulfilling relationship with others. A pleasing and fulfilling relationship would imply
acceptance by others. Having satisfied their basic physiological and security needs, people can seek relationship from which their need for love and belonging can be met.

4. Esteem Needs

Once people have satisfactorily met their need for love and belonging, they can begin to develop positive feelings of self-worth and self-esteem. Esteem needs are for higher position within a group and act to foster pride in their work and in themselves as individual. These needs include self-esteem, respect, achievement, confidence, recognition, and accomplishment.

5. Self-actualization Needs

Self-actualization is the highest level of Maslow’s hierarchy. This level of need pertains to what a person’s full potential is and realizing that potential. “What a man can be, he must be” is the basis of the perceived need for self-actualization. Maslow describes this as the desire to become everything that one is capable of becoming.

Human must fulfill the desire and satisfy from the lowest stage. The lowest stage is constituted of controlling the human behavior. Security stage is needed when the human is in dangerous situation. The social needs involve the feeling of belongingness in the society. If the love and affection needs have been adequately met, the next stage of human needs is esteem needs. Every person is able to move from the lowest stage up to the highest stage, but sometimes there
are so many disturbances that block the person to achieve the highest stage toward self-actualization.

The self-actualization needs are described as the desire to become more and what the person wants to be. These needs are an identification of the psychological needs of growth and development. These needs also appear after some reasonable satisfaction of love and esteem needs.

4. **Theory of Character and Characterization**

Character and characterization are the most intuitively important aspect of a story. Characterization would seem to be an overriding motivation of the implied author, with the events of the narrative merely serving to provide information about characters.

a. **Character**

The character is an important aspect of the novel. The character has two basic qualities that affect the character to do or to say in the novel. Those qualities are morality and personality. According to Abrams (2005), the character is the person presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who is interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and how they act. It is possible that every reader has a different interpretation of a character in a novel (p. 2).
Holman and Harmon (1986) state that character is a complicated term in the novel that contains the idea of morality, personality presence of moral uprightness of creatures in art that seem to be a human being.

According to Foster (1974), in the novel, there are two main characters; they are a flat and round character. A flat character can be defined in one sentence in the novel or the other word character will never change and stay constant. Meanwhile, round character can be remembered by the readers through a certain scene in the novel. The round character is the character whose life changes from the beginning until the end of the story.

b. Characterization

According to Murphy (1972), there are nine ways to describe or analyze the characterization. The first one is personal description. Personal description means that the author describes the character by giving personal information such as body, skin, hair, and etc. The purpose of the clues which given by the author are to help the writer analyzes Margo characteristics.

The second is character as seen by other. The author uses another character’s point of view to describe the character. It means that describing the character can be from another character’s opinion. Margo’s character can be seen from other character’s comments about her.

Third is speech. The author gives the readers an insight into the character through what a person says. Whenever the person gives conversation or an opinion, the person will give clues about the character to the readers.
Forth is past life. The readers can get some clues about the character through the character’s past life. Sometimes, an author gives an important clue by giving information about the character’s experience in the past.

Fifth is a conversation of others. An author can give the readers some clues about a person’s character through the conversation with others. The readers can shape a person’s character from other characters who appear in the story.

Sixth is reaction. An author gives clue about a person’s character to the readers by letting the readers know how a character reacts to certain situation. Usually, it can be seen clearly when the character faces problems.

Seventh is a direct comment. Direct comment is different from personal description. It is because in the direct comment an author describes or comments on a person’s personality directly. The purpose of a direct comment is to make the readers accurately know about the author’s clue that written in the novel.

Eight is thought. An author gives the readers direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. The purpose of knowing what the character thinks and feels is to predict how the characteristic is described.

The last is mannerism. An author describes a person’s mannerism or habit which may also tell something about a character to the readers. The author will reveal the habit of the character both positively and negatively.

Furthermore, Abrams (2005) defines a character as a person who is represented in a dramatic or narrative work which interpreted by the readers. There are two ways to convey the information about a character. The first is explicit characterization. It means that the author literally tells the readers about
how the character is. While, the second is implicit characterization. It means that the readers must infer how the character is (p. 56).

5. **Theory of Personality**

The definition of personality by Allport (1972) in the book *Humanism in Personology* is the dynamic organization within individual consist of system of psychology. It determines how the unique adjustment of the individual towards the particular environmental.

Dawey & Humber (1951) state that personality is the product of interaction process and a dynamic concept, self-contained, one which is being a part of individual (p. 236). To know about personality, it needs social context. It is because personality cannot be separated from social context. This social context shapes a person’s personality. It is impossible to study personality without knowing social context that includes the active organism, the cultural and geographical environment, and other personalities. Personality cannot develop independently because it needs interaction with environmental.

6. **Literal Meaning and True Meaning**

Literal meaning is meaning which appears or can be seen or noticed and it is not hidden. Case and Marshall (2009) states that a literal approach in learning is the tacit acceptance of information and memorization. It does not promote understanding for long term retention of knowledge (pp. 9-18).

In 1994, Barnet, Burto & William states that true meaning is meaning which is told for our sake because it is implicit (p. 28). Frederick in (1964) says that the deeper meaning of the story is a meaning which has value for every
reader (p.75). Case and Marshall (2009) also state that deep learning involves the critical analysis of new idea and promotes the application for life (pp. 9-18)

B. Theoretical Framework

To answer the two formulated problems, the writer uses some theories to support the findings. Those theories are theory of psychological approach, character and characterization, and personality. To solve the first problem formulation, the writer uses the theory of character and characterization by Murphy (1974), the theory of personality by Dewey and Humber (1951), and the psychological approach to analyze the Margo Roth Spiegelman's character. While, in order to solve the second problem formulation, the writer uses the theory of motivation by Maslow (1981). The decision that Margo chose is beyond the desire of her life. Her desire is led by her motive. The motivation pushes her to do an action that is leaving her hometown.

C. Context of the Novel

In this part, the writer will give information about the author of the novel. *Paper Towns* is a young adult fiction by John Green. John Michael Green is an American writer. He was born on August 24, 1977. Most of his novels are about the life of a young adult. The theme of the novel is usually about romance, friendship, and life. *Paper Towns* is Green’s third novel written in 2008 and becomes the number five on *The New York Times* Best Seller list for Children’s book. The novel was made into the 2015 film, *Paper Towns*. In 2009, *Paper
Towns was awarded the Edgar Award for Best Young Adult Novel and the 2010 Corine Literature Prize.

Throughout the novel, the concept of “paper towns” is mentioned several times. However, his first experience with “paper towns” occurred during his junior year of college, while on a trip. In south Dakota, he and his friend came across “paper towns” called “Holen”. At the end of the novel, John Green states that text is mostly true. Agloe began as a paper town created to protect against copyright infringement.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three parts. The first part is the object of the study which is related to the novel. In this part, the writer gives the summary of the novel. The second part is the approach of the study. In this part, the writer explains the psychological approach that is used to analyze the problem formulations. The third part is the method of the study. This part contains the method and gives the readers information about the steps that are conducted in order to accomplish this study.

A. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the novel entitled Paper Towns by John Green. This novel was published in 2008 by Penguin Group in Canada. Paper Towns consists of three hundred and five pages. John Green is an American author. John Green has written many famous novels and mostly the novels are about young adult fiction.

Paper Towns tells about a young adult named Margo Roth Spiegelman. She lives in Orlando, Florida. She does not look like a usual young adult in her town. She likes mystery and for some people around her, Margo is the mystery itself.
Margo grows up as a popular young adult with a popular boyfriend and she likes having party. People also think that Margo is different. She likes to disappear and her parents does not worry about that. It is because when she disappears, she always leaves clues.

During her adult life, she always becomes a center of attention of the people. However, at one night, she comes to Quentin’s house. Margo wants to revenge her boyfriend and her best friends who betrayed her. Together with Quentin, she does the revenge. After the revenge, they go to Sun Trust Tower. On the top of the building, Margo says that Orlando is a Paper Town with paper people. She realized that all people in that town are fake. They never become what they usually want to.

In the next morning, Margo does not come to the school. It usually happens to her. However, after several days Margo still disappears, it makes Quentin thinks that, Margo really disappears. He tries to find Margo’s clues that lead him to her bedroom. Surprisingly for Quentin, when he sees Margo’s room, the room does not represent Margo’s style or personality that he sees during his life. Margo likes to read poems, novel, writing, and folk songs. Quentin thinks that Margo is a popular young adult who likes party, hangout, and has many friends who are also popular. However, his point of view about Margo changes as he realizes that he knows nothing about Margo. Quentin starts to look for the clues. He remembers that Margo once said about paper town. He finds that paper town is a fake town which is put on the map, so if someone copies the map
illegally, it will be known. Agloe is one kind of town in New York, as a paper town itself with zero population.

After a long journey, Quentin arrives in Agloe. There he finds Margo. She looks fine. Margo tells Quentin the reason why she runs away from Orlando. The reason is that in Orlando she cannot become the real one that she wants to be. People and all her friends only look at her in the way that they want it to be seen. Margo’s mistake is that she lets people define herself as they want it. She recognizes herself as a paper girl. She never shows the real Margo Roth Spiegelman. She continuously folds her life until she never knows that it becomes a problem. She does not even know herself. It makes Margo takes the decision to leave her home town. She has an idea that it is better to live in the place that she can do whatever she likes, even she must leave her popularity and friends.

B. Approach of the Study

In this part, the writer focuses on the motivation that leads Margo Roth Spiegelman to make a decision to leave her town. This study uses a psychological approach to analyze the character behavior. This approach also helps the writer to find out the motives of Margo’s decision through behaviour, feeling and thought that appear in the novel.

The study uses a psychological approach to analyze the novel. Psychology is a science that studies about human behavior. The writer uses this approach because psychological side can be used to describe a human character and personality.
According to Robherger & Woods (1971), the psychological approach is used to analyze the personality development of the character in the novel. Through this approach, the writer can analyze the personality of the character and solve the problem formulation.

C. Method of the Study

In conducting the study, the writer uses library research to analyze the novel and solve the problem formulation. It is called library research because the writer uses a book as the primary data and also some books related to the study to find out the data and support the writer statements. To accomplish the study, the writer uses some resources. The first source is primary source. The primary sources are taken from books related to the theories used in the study.

There were also several steps used by the writer to analyze the novel. The first step was reading the novel as the primary data continuously. By that action, the writer could get the deeper understanding of the story of the novel. The next step was to find the important point that would be studied. It was very difficult to find those points, so the writer read the novel over and over again. From the first and second steps, the writer found the main point that would be studied. In this study, the writer was interested in finding the motivations why Margo Roth Spiegelman makes a decision to leave her home town. After finding the topic that would be discussed, the next step was the writer searched the theories related to the topic and used those theories to analyze the novel. The theories that were used to analyze the novel were the psychological approach and the theory of
motivation, the theory of need, the theory of character and characterization. The fourth step were the writer tried to analyze the novel based on theories that were collected before. The writer also tried to find the motives that make Margo Roth Spiegelman makes that decision. Moreover, the writer also used the evidence founded in the novel to reveal the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman's decision. The last step was making the conclusion of this study presented in the thesis.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

In this section, the writer is going to analyze the problems formulated in Chapter I. This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part discusses Margo Roth Spiegelman's character. The second part discusses the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman's big decision to leave the town in the novel. In analyzing the problems, the writer uses the theories presented in Chapter II.

A. The Description of Margo Roth Spiegelman

Abrams (2005) states that characters are people presented in the dramatic of narrative work, who are interpreted by the readers as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in how the characters say and what they act (p. 2). Meanwhile, in 1985, Abrams states that there are two characters in the novel, the first is a major character and the second is a minor character. The major character is the main character who always appears in the whole story of the novel while minor characters are less important than major character, because they do not fully appear in the story and their roles just to support the development of the major character (p.20). In addition, Holman and Hammond (1986) say that a character is the complicated part in the novel. The term of character includes the idea of the moral of the human personality, presence, and simple notion of the presence of creatures in art that seems to be a human being of sort or another.
In this novel, Margo Roth Spiegelman is categorized as a major character. Her character is fully developed from the beginning until the end of the story. It can be seen that she always appears in every chapter, although by a conversation of others.

After discovering that her boyfriend is cheating on her, Margo Roth Spiegelman drags Quentin along for a night of revenge. After accomplishing the revenge, the next day, Margo disappears. She leaves a few clues as a goodbye to Quentin and drives away. In the novel, the main problem is Margo, and the main point of the novel is to find out where Margo is through Quentin. That is why Margo is the major character.

Foster (1974) divides the character into two types, which are flat character and round character. The flat character is a character which is defined as single idea or quality. The character is not changed by the circumstance, the character stays the same. Meanwhile, the round character has more complicated act and brings emotional feeling in the scene. Based on the theory, Margo Roth Spiegelman is included as a round character. The author wants to impress the readers about Margo’s character through the conflict that appears in the story. The author also lets the readers to imagine what Margo’s characteristics are. In order to know what the characteristics of Margo, the readers will follow every action and decision in the way she solves her problems. From that, the reader will be impressed by Margo’s character.
To find out how to characterize a character, the writer uses theory of Murphy (1972). In this theory, there are nine ways to characterize a character. The nine ways are a personal description, speech, character as seen as by another, past life, reaction, direct comment mannerism, a conversation of others and thought. In this part, the explanation about Margo will be found out through psychological characteristic.

After the writer read the novel over and over again, the writer can say that Margo Roth Spiegelman has many psychical descriptions. In this part, the writer is going to explain the psychical description of Margo Roth Spiegelman.

1. Physical Characteristic
   a. Big eyes

   “I swiveled around when I heard the window open, and Margo’s blue eyes were staring back at me. Her eyes were all I could see at first, but as my vision adjusted, I realized she was wearing black face paint and a black hoodie” (p. 25).

   From the statements above, it can be seen that Margo has a big eyes. That is why there are many interpretations about her. According to the novel, each minor character has a different perspective of Margo. It makes her becomes a mysterious and manic pixie dreamieen girl.

   b. Tapering Fingers

   As the writer explained before, Margo is a teen girl who likes to run away from home and nobody knows the reason why. Margo as a popular girl always try to look as good as possible.

   “While you calm down, I'm going to paint my nails,” she said, smiling up at me through her bangs (p. 44).
That is what Quentin thought about Margo. He sees that Margo has different interpretation about something and she allows others to see her personality which would suit her looks. She does not correct them on the fact that she is actual, quite a mysterious person.

2. Psychological Characteristic

In this part, the explanation of psychological characteristics from Margo will be divided into some parts. There are introvert, smart, fearless, risk-taker, and stereotype. The writer gives explanation about the main character according to the novel.

a. Introvert

Jung (1875) states that introvert are people who prefer their internal world of thoughts, feelings, fantasies, dreams, and so on, while extroverts prefer the external world of things and people and activities (p. 11).

Margo Roth Spiegelman is the girl who likes mystery more than everyone. Margo’s childhood is full of mystery adventure. As the writer explained before, she runs away from home occasionally to learn how to play guitar in Mississippi, or spend three days traveling with the circus. As she grows up, she becomes an introverted person, she never tells anyone what she really is. She cannot express her feeling to other people easily, even to her parents. Her parents do not know the reason why Margo likes to run away from home. Actually, she is a smart girl, she has her own thoughts to see something differently from others.
She prefers keeping the real of her and lets people describe Margo as they want to see. Here, there are several clues showing that Margo is an introvert person. Margo never expresses her true willingness to other, and rather choose to express her feeling to do something that is actually unpredictable by others.

“Margo always loved mysteries. And in everything that came afterward, I could never stop thinking that maybe she loved mysteries so much that she become one” (p. 8).

The statement from Quentin above shows that Margo likes anything about mysteries. Quentin and everybody do not know her reason. Maybe it is only Margo who knows the reason. Her way of thinking is different from others. It can be seen when Margo and Quentin see a dead man under the oak tree when they are childhood. Normally, children will run away and maybe tell their parents about the dead man, but it is different when Margo sees the dead man. Margo does not run or cry, but she does the investigation about the dead man.

“And then I asked why. And then she told me that he was getting divorce” (p. 7).

The conversation above shows that Margo has a different way of thinking. She tells all those investigations to Quentin but she does not tell the reason why she does the investigation. Even her parents do not know about the investigation. It proves that Margo is an introvert girl.

Margo grows up as a popular girl in her school. She likes going to the party, hanging out with her friends, and becoming a trendsetter of teenage life. Margo’s life is so perfect. Margo as an introvert girl also can be seen when she runs away from home after she had revenge. Quentin tries to find her through the
clues that she left. For the first time, there is a person who enters Margo’s room. Margo’s room is different from what anybody thought before.

“I began to look through the records. They were organized alphabetically by artist, so I scanned through, looking for G’s. Dizzy Gillespie, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Green Day, Guided by Voices, George Harrison”

“She has, like every musician in the world except Woody Guthrie,” (p.112).

Actually, all those musicians are old records. No one thinks that the popular girl like Margo has a taste of that kind of music. All those old records do not describe Margo as a popular girl that everybody knows before. Nobody knows about that until Quentin enters her room.

b. Smart

Margo is a smart girl. She has an investigation about the dead man when she was a child. She wants to revenge to her friends and boyfriend. Therefore, she always does something unpredictable.

“Shes told me he lived on Jefferson Road in one of those condos on top of the grocery store, so I went over there and there were a bunch of policemen, and one of them asked if I worked at the school paper, and I said our school didn’t have a paper, and he said as long as I wasn’t a journalist he would answer my question” (page. 7).

From that conversation, it can be seen that Margo is an expert of an investigation. Especially when she manipulates the situation. She can investigate the dead man easily even there are many polices in there. She can manipulate the policemen and say that she is a journalist from school. Margo can easily enter the apartment by manipulating the woman, Juan Alvarez, and said that she wants to
borrow a cup of sugar for her mom. As a 10-year-old girl, she can change the impossible situation becomes the possible situation.

“I think I maybe know why,” she finally said.

“Why?”

“Maybe all the strings inside him broke,” she said. (p. 8).

All those statements above come from Margo’s thought. Margo uses an uncommon word like string. It is only Margo that knows the meaning of strings.

“Then why are you wearing black face paint?” (p. 27).

‘Margo faltered for only the briefest moment.’ Dad, to answer that question would take hours of backstory, and I know that you’re probably very tired, so just go back—“

In the house,” he thundered. “This minute!”

‘Margo grabbed hold of my shirt, whispered “Back in a minute” in my ear and then climbed out the window.’ (p. 27).

Margo takes revenge to her friends. All the lists that become part of her revenge show that she is a smart girl. She already plans about her revenge one by one.

‘Here he comes’, Margo whispered, and I didn’t know what she meant until, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a shirtless Jason Worthington wiggling out of the basement window. He took off sprinting across the lawn, naked but for his boxer shorts, and as he approached I jumped up and took a picture of him, completing Part Three (p. 40).

Those are other clues which explain about Margo’s intelligence. By writing that statement, the writer describes Margo’s cleverness and her skill to manipulate the situation.
c. **Fearless**

Margo is such a girl who is never scared of anything. She is a brave girl.

She took another step. She was close enough now to reach out and touch his foot. “What do you think happened to him?” she asked. Maybe it was drugs or something” (p. 5).

All the statements above show that Margo is fearless and brave. Normally, when someone sees a dead body, she or he will run. For Margo, the dead man is like an interesting thing. She does not run away, instead, she goes forward to the dead man and thinks why he is dead.

d. **Risk-Taking**

Margo is a girl who is never afraid of anything. Margo is someone who sticks in her faith when she makes a decision. When she was a little girl, she comes across Agloe, New York, which was originally a paper town created on a map.

After she finishes the revenge, she decides to leave Orlando. Like usual, she does not tell anyone. For this time, her escape is different from her escapes before. She often ran away from home but she always comes back. Once again Margo runs away and never wants to come back to Orlando. She never wants to come back, because for a long time she has been cheated by her boyfriend and bestfriend. Orlando is a paper town with paper people who never care about the important things even themselves.

The readers can see that Margo is a risk-taker when she decides to leave Orlando and never wants to come back even Quentin and her friends come to Agloe to pick her up. She left her friends, her college, prom, and her family. She
escapes to Agloe because she loves the idea that the fake location eventually become a real place, and thinks that it is the perfect place for her to start over since she thought of herself as being a “paper girl”, image of Margo that people create without actually getting to know the real of her. Without telling anyone, she ventures off on a journey to Agloe on her own to pursue a new beginning and never looks back after the choices she makes.

e. Stereotypical

People often judge books by their covers, sometimes without even realizing it. Everyone thinks that the first impression is so important, but rarely people ever get to know a person in that first encounter.

Once Margo finds out that her boyfriend cheats on her with her bestfriend, she has mission to get back to those who hurt her and does not give him the option to win her back. She believes that all the man just the same. She originally plans a road trip and ultimately makes it happen. She knows that never going back to her hometown will set her free and move on with her life.

In the process of the revenge, she thinks that everybody who lives in Orlando has a bad attitude like her boyfriend and bestfriend. Meanwhile, her thought or idea about people in Orlando is wrong, there are still people who are kind-hearted. Quentin, Radar, Angela even Lacey her bestfriend are the people who live in Orlando but they still care about Margo. Margo’s stereotype brings her to the situation that makes her runs away from Orlando.
B. The Meaning

In this study, the meaning of Margo’s decision is divided into two parts. The first is literal meaning. It means that the meaning of Margo’s decision can be found in the novel explicitly. The author has written the meaning in the novel. The second is the deeper meaning. It means that the meaning of Margo’s decision can be found after reading the novel. The readers can interpret the meaning by themselves.

John Green’s novel uses many kinds of metaphors to describe something important in the novel. In this novel, Green also uses metaphor to describe the disappearance of Margo. In the novel, her disappearance is explained in part 2 (The Grass). In this part, Margo runs away and Quentin begins his pursuit of finding Margo. Green uses many explicit extended metaphors to describe Margo’s disappearance.

“I liked the image of Margo as a balloon, but I figured that in his urge for the poetic, the detective had seen more worry in me than the pang I’d actually felt. I knew she’d be back, She’d deflate and float back to Jefferson Park, She always had (p.105).

Green gives Detective Otis Warren- the balloon metaphor. The detective explains that missing girl is like lost balloons. While he sees a sky full of them, their loved ones (like Quentin) can only see the one. This metaphor is important because it gives no hope of Margo returning (a balloon can never come back down to where it was released). The literal meaning of Margo’s disappearance is Margo is sick of the people who live in her town. They never show the real side of them. The important thing for the people is how they can be accepted in their
circumstances by ignoring who they really are. What Margo feels about people in
the town can be seen from her statement when she is in the Sun Trust building.

“Everyone demented with the mania of owning things. All the things
paper-thin and paper-frail. And all the people. Too. I’ve lived here for
eighteen years and I have never once in my life come across anyone who
cares about anything that matters” (pp. 57-58).

The readers can see that her motive is to run away from the town and
forget the people who live there. Staying in that town makes Margo feel empty
and never find the true happiness in her life.

1. Literal Meaning

In this part, the literal meaning of Margo’s decision could be found in the
novel explicitly. The word decision means a decision which was chosen by
Margo to leave the town. The writer used Freud’s psychological approach (2009)
to analyze Margo’s decision. Freud (2009) states that personality has three parts;
the id, the ego, and the superego. The id is the basic part that human has to fulfill
and it only knows how to fulfill its desire without considering its reality in her
life. Margo has the desire to be the real Margo that everyone did not expect to be.
However, she cannot fulfill the desire because her environment does not support
her. Then she just keeps her desire for herself without doing anything, until she
has a bad experience in her life and it changes Margo’s way of thinking about her
friends and people around her. In Margo’s case, the ego works well because ego
needs support from the environment so that ego can create her desire. In Margo’s
situation, the three parts are balance because the ego is strong enough to do an
action to satisfy the id. Since the parts do work well and properly, the id sends
impulses in a form of an action, in this case Margo’s decision. Here, there is Margo’s statement that shows about Margo’s decision.

“All the paper kids drinking beer some bought for them at the paper convenience store. Everyone demented with the mania of owning things. All the things paper-thin and paper-frail. And all the people. Too. I’ve lived here for eighteen years and I have never once in my life come across anyone who cares about anything that matters”(pp. 57-58)

That statement happens between Margo and Quentin. According to Freud’s theory of id, ego, and superego the decision which Margo chooses led by her desire and her environment does support her to do an action that satisfies the id. In Margo’s case, the ego relates to her bad experience or bad things that happens in her life. Her boyfriend has been cheating on her with her bestfriend and it makes her realize that all the people are wearing masks. That bad experience hurts Margo. From the moment, she takes the action to leave her hometown.

2. True Meaning

The deeper meaning of Margo's decision to leave the town is the meaning that can be seen in the novel implicitly. It means that the decision of Margo can be explained not only by showing the meaning of what the character says, but also it can be explained from the motivation of the character. Motivation is the base of doing something. In explaining the deeper meaning of Margo’s decision, people can see it from the motive behind what the characters do and say.

In this part, motivation theory from Freud (2009) and Jung (1978) are applied to find the deeper meaning of Margo’s decision in the novel. There is Margo’s motivation that can explain the meaning of her decision.
“I had narrowed her down, and I figured there had to be things here that I was seeing wrong or not seeing. I wanted to tear off the roof and light up the whole place so that I could see it all at once, instead of one flashlight beam at the time” (p. 173).

The statement explains that sometimes people notice something different from what it is used to or supposed to be, and people wanted to know the truth behind those actions. It is because sometimes in people lives, not all people see is really the truth. Margo is a girl who never shows the real herself to anybody. What everybody sees from Margo is only his or her imagination and Margo starts to revolt from her environment.

Margo realizes that her town does not belong to her. She never finds the true happiness in her life. There is an emptiness inside her heart even though she has popularity.

“here is the girl I love and cannot follow. I hope this is the hero’s errand because not following her is the hardest thing I’ve ever done” (p.304).

This statement shows that Margo cannot pursue or find her life goal. Margo does not follow her dream or goals in her life and makes her suffer for misery. Margo decides to leave the town after all the bad things that happen to her. From her decision, it can be explained that Margo chooses to run away from her problem. She thinks that it is better to just leave it hanging than taking other circumstances again that can make situation get worst. Even though Margo is described as a strong and brave girl, actually she is a weak girl.

Every time a person make the decision to love someone, she or he opens the chance to great suffering, because those we love the most cause not only great
joy and happiness, but also great pain for us. The greatest pain comes from leaving. Leaving someone is easy, not going back to them is the hardest part. It also happens to Margo when she decides to leave her town. Margo realizes that she must leave the place that she has lived in and loved and where all her memories are buried deep.

“It is so hard to leave until you leave. And then it is the easiest goddammed thing in the world”(p. 229).

Margo’s bad experience pushes her to make an action that can change her whole life. Since the cheating, Margo is hurt. The statement from Quentin above shows that she wants to leave all the pain together with the people in the town and find out the happiness in another place.

In this case, the main problem of Margo Roth Spiegelmen is on the third stage. According to the Maslow’s, the third stage is including safety and security which advance our tribal nature. These are the needs for belonging, love, affection as well as for relationship with family and friends, and companionship. These needs are met through pleasing and fulfilling relationship with others. A pleasing and fulfilling relationship would imply acceptance by others. Having satisfied their basic physiological and security needs, people can seek relationship from which their need for love and belonging can be met. In this stage, Margo cannot fulfill this stage. Margo does not get the true love and friendship in her life. Even though she has a handsome boyfriend and popular friends, it cannot make her happy. Her boyfriend who is cheating on her with her bestfriend show that the belongingness friendship and love of Margo is only counterfeit. If her boyfriend
truly loves her, he does not need to cheat on her, also her friendship. Margodoes not get affection from her environment.

There is still an empty space in her heart. All the bad experiences lead her to make a decision. That situation ruined her life, when she cannot do anything in her hometown, leaving is her decision to escape from the pressure. It can save the rest of her heart and life.

In conclusion, the deeper meaning of Margo’s decision can be seen from her motives to leave her home town. She wanted to leave her home town, because her boyfriend is cheating. For a long time, she puts her trust on her friends, and suddenly she knows about the cheating. Margo takes revenge to her boyfriend and best friend. It makes her happy, but the revenge cannot fade her broken heart. Since that day, she thinks that all people in the town have the same behavior. All of her traumas which haunt make her cannot think well. She believes that by leaving the town, she can forget the bad experience and cure the broken heart. She is sure that she can find the happiness in another place. The cheating opens her mind that she never gets happiness in her life, she only pleases other people’s life and lets them create the myth of Margo Roth Spiegelman.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of two parts. They are the conclusions and the suggestions. The conclusions are related to the characterization of Margo Roth Spiegelman with the literal and the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman's decision which are analyzed in Chapter IV. The suggestions consist of the suggestions for the future writers and English teachers.

A. Conclusions

The findings for the problem formulation have been revealed and discussed in Chapter IV. In this chapter, The writer summarizes those findings into some paragraphs as follows.

The first finding is Margo Roth Spiegelman's characters. In the novel, Margo is categorized as a major character. It is because she always appears in the novel although she is told by another character. Besides, she is also categorized as a round character. Margo is pictured as a popular teenage girl. She has a handsome boyfriend and famous friends. Psychologically, she is an introvert person. She does not like to share her feelings to others. She always keeps her problem by herself. It makes other people create their own perspective about her and she cannot show the real side of her.
Quentin starts to pursue Margo and finds some clues. Surprisingly, Quentin finds something weird in Margo’s room that he has never imagined before. Quentin finds folk songs, poems, and Margo’s notebook. People think that Margo is a popular girl who likes hanging out and party. Poems are something that does not describe Margo, but in fact Margo like poem.

Margo is also a smart girl. When she was a child she does an investigation about the dead man. As explained in the Chapter IV, she does an investigation about the dead man. She manipulates the police and the woman in the apartment so she can get the information about the dead man. Not only smart, Margo is also such a fearless girl. It can be proven in the novel particular in the beginning of the story. When she and Quentin see something different in the old oak tree. Margo takes a step closer to the tree and finds the dead man. Mostly, a child will be afraid when they see a dead body, but it is not for Margo. For her, the dead body is interesting, she stands very close to the dead body and close enough to touch it.

Her decision to leave the town and never want to come back is a big decision. Parents, sister, friends and all the people which live in that town that across her life, but she chooses to leave all those things forever. When she finds that her boyfriend is cheating on her with her best friend, she starts to change her way of thinking. From that moment, she believes that all people who live in the town have same personality like her ex-boyfriend. The way she thinks changes into a stereotype.
The second finding is about the meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman's decision. In this study, the writer explains Margo’s decision from two different sides. The first is the literal meaning. The literal meaning can be seen from what detective Warren says about the metaphor of balloons in the novel which describes the disappearance of Margo. From the literal meaning, it can be found that her decision represents her feeling about the people who live in the town. It means that her decision is influenced by the people who never really care about the matters thing in their life. She is trapped on people’s interpretation of her image.

Then, the true meaning of her decision can be reviewed by her motivation. She asks Quentin to do the mission that is the revenge. She feels happy after it, but she realizes that the thing that makes her sad is the betrayal of her friends. It is represented by her thought that her town is a paper town with paper people. Her decision is influenced by her bad experiences during her life. The fact that her boyfriend is cheating on her and her friend did not tell her about it. Margo is broken-hearted and the revenge cannot get rid of her sadness. The cheating opens her mind that she never gets happiness in her life. She only pleases other people’s life and let them to create the myth of Margo Roth Spiegelman.

Margo is actually a coward person. She cannot handle the situation that ruin her life so she decides to run away from her home town rather than confront the situation up. She is not strong enough to accept the fact of all the bad things that happen in her life.
B. Suggestions

This part proposes suggestions for future researchers who are interested in novel *Paper Town* and suggestion for English teachers in using this novel as a learning material to teach English.

1. **Suggestion for Future Researchers**

There are many aspects that can be studied from this novel. The analysis in this study is only limited to the true meaning of Margo Roth Spiegelman’s decision. Having analyzed the novel, the writer suggests this novel for the future researchers to conduct studies about an analysis of the use of metaphor in *Paper Town* novel.

2. **Suggestion for English Teacher**

*Paper Town* is a useful piece of Young Adult literature for students, especially for the students who have interest in the literature like drama, prose, or poem. This mystery novel is interesting and full of literary convention, plot development, voice, story structure, theme, foreshadowing, metaphor, symbolism, and character. A teacher can use this book for a variety of lessons with a diverse group of students.

*Paper Towns* can be used as a learning material to teach Prose in third semester, or even Drama in fourth semester, and Play Performance in fifth or sixth semester of English Language Education Study Program.
C. Reflection

There are two main themes that have forever been imprinted on my opinion. The first one is that people tend to idolize those who are just out of their opinion. People see someone who attractive and project onto them our own romanticized ideals. The reason people can get away with this is because people often never get to know them well enough for the charade to be shattered.

The second one is that the more people learn about a person or a place, the more chances people have to find their faults. It is like when a person is known for their pristine reputation. From a distance, the person seems like they have it all together, but when you really get to know them, you start to see the problems they are dealing with.

For most of Paper Towns, those that are idealized are done so in a positive light. If people have a negative outlook on generalized portions of life, then when faced with individual forms, our negative outlook will translate and prevent people from truly being honest about whether something is good or bad. For example, if a girl thinks most guys are shallow jerks, then she will judge a new guy immediately as a shallow jerk and it is not until she gets a closer look at who he really is. This can be seen in a lot of teen novels, where the guy has to break down the girl’s emotional. It can be damaging, because it causes one to miss out on some great people and relationships.

The only way to break our idealized versions of someone is, if people take ten steps closer. What people can do, is to learn from Quentin and Margo because this kind of thinking is damaging to ourselves and the person being idolized. So
the next time, if people find themselves fall for someone, make sure people get a better look at them, before people make the terrible mistake of turning them into a mirror of our own desires.
REFERENCES


Appendix A

Summary of Paper Towns

Quentin Jacobsen is a seventeen-year-old living in an Orlando-area high school. He has been in love with his childhood best friend, Margo, his entire life. Quentin is an intelligent boy and Margo has a reputation for being tough and cool. When they were nine years old, he and Margo shared a discovery that changed their lives forever. While walking through a park, they found a man named Robert Joyner who had killed himself. Since that night, he and Margo went separate ways. Fortunately, Quentin’s parents are therapists and other than that tragedy long ago, Quentin has lived a balanced and well-adjusted life with few risks and drama.

A few weeks before high school graduation, Margo appears at Quentin’s window in the middle of the night. She asks him to accompany her on an all-nighter of pranks. Margo is on a litany of revenge that includes spray paint, blackmail, and breaking into Sea World. Quentin thinks that this night will bring he and Margo together again as friends. However, Margo runs away after their adventures.

Quentin turns to his friends Radar and Ben, and to Margo’s friend, Lacy, for help in an attempt to find her. They eventually skip their high school graduation and go on a cross-country trip to find or “save her.” Margo has left clues in a volume of Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass in the hopes that he will
find her. Along the way, Quentin realizes that Margo is not really the person that he thought he knew.

Reviewers note Green’s deft hand describing the social challenges of the culture in this part of Florida with its heat, overdevelopment, and temptations. Margo’s description of their town as “a paper town” is an apt metaphor: she describes a paper town as one with cul-de-sacs and streets that turn into themselves and houses that are meant to fall apart. Critics admire Green’s memorable and unusual characters in this slice of Florida life.

http://www.enotes.com/topics/paper-towns
Appendix B

Biography of John Green

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

John Michael Green was born on August 24, 1977, to Mike and Sydney Green in Indianapolis. He received his early education from Lake Highland Preparatory School and Indian Springs School. His experience of school was similar to other social outcasts who get bullied by arrogant people. He earned double graduation degrees in English and Religious Studies from Kenyon College. He worked as a student chaplain after graduation in a children’s hospital. His initial aim was to become an Episcopal priest. However, the time he spent among children with terminal-illness stimulated him to become a writer. Afterwards, he worked as a publishing assistant for *Booklist*, a book review journal. Green wrote numerous reviews on literary fictions mostly concerning conjoined twins or religion of Islam.

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

Subsequently, Green penned a second novel in 2006 titled, *An Abundance of Katherines*. It was another successful publication which was able to garner runner-up position for the Printz Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize’s finalist stand. His next novel published in 2008, *Paper Towns*, was also received with the same enthusiasm as its predecessors. There was a promise of a film adaptation of the book which he accepted. However, later Green realized book’s worth and feared the movie’s failure to capture its essence would fail his dedicated readers. Thus, he pulled out of the adaptation contract. Moreover, following the success of his literary work, Green quit his job at *Booklist* as a critique with intention of working as a professional writer.

The years to come brought Green achievement of his lifetime in the form of *The Fault in Our Stars*. It was the highest grossing novel of 2012. The novel is about a teen Hazel with a terminal lung cancer, who keeps waiting for the sword to fall. Unlike other kids she didn’t have much to aspire for until she meets Augustus who had once suffered from cancer himself. A sudden twist of fate takes them on a trip to Amsterdam and the journey changes everything for them. Green has masterfully sketched the plot in which he made certain at the beginning there is no happy-ending but there is hope. He expands the limitation of YA novel by discussing mature subject matter. Green philosophically and wittily approaches
the theme of grief, pain, death, oblivion and other serious subjects. Moreover, he profusely infuse the literary allusions in the novel giving it a more sophisticated form.

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

http://www.famousauthors.org/john-green