



Teachers' Notes

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, The Fault in Our Stars is award-winning author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

The reviewers say:

'A novel of life and death and the people caught in between, The Fault in Our Stars is John Green at his best. You laugh, you cry, and then you come back for more.' Markus Zusak, bestselling and Printz Honor-winning author of *The Book Thief*

'An electric portrait of young people who learn to live life with one foot in the grave. Filled with staccato bursts of humor and tragedy, The Fault in Our Stars takes a spin on universal themes-Will I be loved? Will I be remembered? Will I leave a mark on this world?-by dramatically raising the stakes for the characters who are asking.' Jodi Picoult, bestselling author of My Sister's Keeper and Sing You Home

'John Green writes incredible, honest truths about the secret, weird hearts of human beings. He makes me laugh and gasp at the beauty of a sentence or the twist of a tale. He is one of the best writers alive and I am seething with envy of his talent.' E. Lockhart, National Book Award Finalist and Printz Honor-winning author of The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau Banks and The Boyfriend List

Teacher Review - Spoiler Alert: The Price of Dawn is Blood by Rohan Clifford

When you get your hands on a copy of John Green's new book *The Fault in Our Stars*, check inside the cover. Green personally autographed the first 150 000 copies (the entire first print run), at least that's what Wikipedia has to say on the matter (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John Green (author)). Since Green's 2005 acclaimed debut novel *Looking for Alaska*, and the subsequent *An Abundance of Katherines* and *Paper Towns*, Green has collaborated on 3 more books and released short stories for various compendiums, as well as a great deal of on-line and interactive material. This, despite having possibly the worst hand cramp in history. or possibly, Wikipedia is *wrong*. Which is possible, because not everything can be plain sailing in an infinite universe. You just have to take your chances. That's the credo of the characters in Green's new novel, existing as they do in a universe seemingly oblivious to their suffering. A universe, which allows the young and promising to die from horrible and dehumanising cancers, and leaving the living scarred.

Unlike many cancer stories, Green's novel looks at the view from within courtesy of a support group, meeting regularly in a church splayed out in the shape of a cross. This is where sixteen year old, parentally-adored and terminal (no spoiler) Hazel, meets survivor Augustus through mutual friend and fellow resident of *Cancervania*, Isaac. Amidst all the seeming fragility of what becomes known as *survivor's group*, there is a blunt acceptance of the above-mentioned credo. The view from *inside* the universe of potentially terminal disease, as you would expect, is full of fear and desperation, but also acceptance and coping. From outside that world, we might call it bravery. Inside, you don't have the choice of bravery, so it is just how you get on with it. Or how you don't.

There's an edge to the voice of Green's characters that is confronting. They're tough. They yell from the page like a short-changed *New York Cabbie*, even though the story is set in Indiana. And that's even when they're not yelling. The dialogue in *The Fault in our Stars* is at times cynical and quick-fire, hinting, perhaps at ways of coping with the obscene brutality of cancer.

I didn't tell him that my diagnosis came just three months after I got my first period. Like: Congratulations! You're a woman. Now die.

Hazel continues to exist, largely thanks to a range of hospital equipment and medication, including a portable oxygen tank because, as she admits, her lungs *suck at being lungs*. All the while Hazel struggles to draw breath, she nourishes us readers with some impressive observations:

There is only one thing in this world shi**ier than biting it from cancer when you're sixteen, and that's having a kid who bites it from cancer.

Observations, which reveal the world-view of a sensitive soul in a ghastly, insensitive universe. But it's not all cannulas and treatment, gradual dismemberment and slow suffocation.

On the outskirts of *Cancervania*, parents have their own survival methods, forcing themselves to cope with the daily terror of losing their once blossoming children to the destruction of their own cells. Some manage by embracing positive affirmations, over time emblazoning them across cushions, placemats, bed spreads until entire households become museums of absurd positivity. (*My parents call them encouragements*, explains Augustus).

Some are stoic. Some are comically hopeless, crying at the mention of death, or at the mention of anything that might lead to the mention of death. Some are absent, others, very much, are present.

In Green's novel, there is love, and of course there is loss. There is much, much humour and teenage angst. There is diminution and there is growth, the reduction and destruction of beautiful human beings and their glorious, gorgeous evolution. There is the same constant search for meaning, uniting the dying with the living, the blamed with the blameless. Underpinning all of this, there is the very human question of why or how this could happen.

Answers are found in the writing of Hazel's revered and reclusive Dutch author Peter Van Houten, who has written just one novel *An Imperial Affliction*, the closest thing Hazel has ever had to a bible (*Pain demands to*

be felt, says Van Houten). It is when she reluctantly shares her devotion to this book with Augustus (who returns the favour by introducing Hazel to *The Price of Dawn* and it's triple digit zombie-death count) that the sparks of attraction are kindled. The ensuing romance, acknowledged by both parties as inherently star-crossed and quite possibly futile is funny, uplifting, perhaps even death-defying.

He sighed, exhaling for so long that to my crap lungs it seemed like he was bragging.

Beautiful.

The Fault in our Stars is not about dealing with cancer or about cancer per se. It is about how brilliantly well these smart and truly tangible characters react and cope with what an infinite universe has dealt them and how we can identify ourselves as the bumbling, well-meaning idiots who live somewhere outside Cancervania.

There is not meaning to be found in these stars. But there is meaning to be made.

Key Understandings & skills

Information and communication technology (ICT) competence:

- Research and critically evaluate information in relation to the text, on the Internet
- Digital Scrapbook
- Book Trailer creation
- ICT activities as listed below

Critical and Creative Thinking:

- Infer character motivation
- Locate and interpret evidence
- Reinforce the comprehension strategies
- Make personal connections to the text and reflect on related issues
- Investigate author characterization and setting
- How authors use imagery effectively
- Character profiles, character maps
- Problem solving

Ethical Behaviour/ Personal and Social Competence:

- Personal connections how might you react to situations if you were in this situation?
- Make personal connections to the text and reflect on related issues
- Realism of the story realism versus narrative. Could this situation really happen?

Use as a model for personal reflective writing based on experience

Assessment

'For' assessment:

Digital Scrapbook/Writers Notebook.

This will lead students to reflect on and respond to **The Fault in Our Stars**, by creating a digital scrapbook/writers notebook. Students view a sample electronic scrapbook and use the project rubric to evaluate it, becoming familiar with the project requirements in the process. They use an online tool to evaluate resources on a topic related to a piece of literature and post their evaluations for class reference. Students then use online resources to capture "scraps" of information about their assigned topic and create a scrapbook using Keynote/PowerPoint, Prezi, iMovie/Windows Movie Maker or Animoto, making sure to cite all their sources.

They share their online scrapbook with the class, defending their choice of scrapbook entries: why is the entry important to the understanding of the topic?

Source URL - Outline/further resources:

http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/literary-scrapbooks-online-electronic-787.html?tab=4#tabs

Alternatively, the Digital Scrapbook can be done as a Writer's Notebook (using an exercise book to record their reflections and response's to the text)

'As' assessment:

Reading and Writing conferring, Digital Scrapbook/Writers Notebook development (rubric assessment – self, peer, teacher), on demand testing.

'Of' assessment:

Folio of pieces, presented as Digital Scrapbook/Writers Notebook. Practice analytical text response essays. Various written text responses that explore theme, character development etc. Students will have evidence of planning (supported via Digital Scrapbook/Writers Notebook. This will include evidence of note taking/summarizing to support their point of view etc.) within the portfolio.

Exam:

Analytical text response essay.

Suggested Teaching and Learning Activities:

Digital Scrapbook:

- Choose one of the following applications to create your digital scrapbook; Pages, Keynote, Word
- Name your Digital Scrapbook **The Fault in Our Stars- Novel Study-Your name/Term/Start date**
- Save this to your desktop, you will be working on this throughout the Term as you read
- As you follow the directions that will be given to you over the duration of the Term, remember to cut and paste all URL's of all sites you use to research, create pieces, and access/find images/music/film links into your Digital Scrapbook

Before Reading:

- In your Digital Scrapbook, write a few paragraphs predicting what you think **The Fault in Our Stars** is about, based solely on your reading of the blurb
- Don't forget to SAVE your work!

About The Author:

Take some time to research the Author of **The Fault in Our Stars**, John Green.Record any and all information you find in your Digital Scrapbook/Writers Notebook. (Be sure to record all URL's for information cited). You might like to begin here-

http://johngreenbooks.com/the-fault-in-our-stars/

http://www.penguin.com.au/products/9780143567592/fault-our-stars

http://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse/videos?view=0

Suggested Activities for Secondary Students

Reflections on the Novel

Now you have completed reading **The Fault in Our Stars**, it is time to reflect on the novel. Revisit the work you completed while reading. Were your early reading predictions and character analysis correct?

Write a page on how the outcomes of the novel differed from your early predictions, or were the same.

Interview:

Choose a character from **The Fault in Our Stars** to interview. Write 6 questions you would ask this character and then write the answers you think the character would give you.

Letter from a character:

Write a letter from a chosen character another character. Take this opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings.

6 Word Story:

Using only six words, sum up **The Fault in Our Stars** and its story line. You may choose to do this from the point of view of one of the characters.

Write an Epilogue/Prologue:

Choose to write either an epilogue or a prologue for **The Fault in Our Stars**. Depending on which you choose, set your epilogue/prologue 10 years into the future or the past. You may do this from any characters point of view.

ICT Activities

Character Voki

- 1. After reading chapters 1-4 choose two characters from the book.
- 2. You will be creating a talking avatar using Voki.com.
- 3. Go to Voki.com and log-in or create a Voki account. (Note: If you are not logged in, you will not be able to embed your Voki in your blog/keynote.)
- 4. Choose two characters from **The Fault in Our Stars**. Create a Voki for those characters. Due to the word count limitations in each Voki, you may need to do a few Vokis for your character to complete the speech requirements. You're writing the speech in first person as if the character is talking about him/her. Include the following details in your speech:
 - Three text details that describe their behaviors, how they feel, what they might be thinking about one another/their situation, their appearance, etc.



Thinking about the characters in The Fault in Our Stars

- Go to http://oneword.com/
- After reading the instructions, click 'go'
- You will have ONE minute. With the word that appears at the top of the screen choose to do one of the following-
- Write a piece of dialogue between two characters using the word provided
- OR
- Write as much as you can about a character using the word provided.

Do NOT submit your writing, instead, highlight what you have written, copy and paste OR take a screenshot of the page. Paste this into a page in your Digital Scrapbook. Don't forget to copy in the URL of the site and date your work.



'FaceBook' Page:

Imagine what Facebook pages of characters from the novel might look like. Think about what their status updates might look like and the post's they might put on one another's wall.

- Create a folder on your desktop entitled The Fault in Our Stars-FaceBook Page.
- Begin searching for and collecting copyright free images that represent your visualisation of the characters and the locations they live/visit.
- Go to http://www.myfakewall.com/
- Create an account using your student email account
- Create a fake FaceBook page for any character in The Fault in Our Stars
- Take screenshot, save URL and add to your Digital Scrapbook
- Go here for an example http://www.myfakewall.com/wall/edit/134739



Responses to Text:

Short Poem Creation:

- Go to http://www.piclits.com/compose_dragdrop.aspx
- Choose a photo that represents themes from The Fault in Our Stars to you
- Choose words from lists, drag and drop to create your PicLit poem
- Save and add to your Digital Scrapbook

TagGalaxy Warm Up:

- Go to http://taggalaxy.de/
- Type in a keyword that elucidates a theme from the novel; e.g.- Hope
- Click on a planet



- Take a screenshot of the resulting image
- Select one of the images that will inspire you to write
- Take another screenshot
- Save these screenshots to your Digital Scrapbook and write a short poem/story (no less than 25 words) inspired by the image



Don't forget to Save and add to your Digital Scrapbook

Book Trailer - The Fault in Our Stars

Using iMovie/Windows Movie Maker, you will be creating a Book Trailer for **The Fault in Our Stars**. This will form part of your assessment for this Unit of work.

- Create a folder on your desktop titled Book Trailer- The Fault in Our Stars.
- Source images from the following websites (remember to save the URL's of the images chosen and paste them into a Word doc for later).
- http://www.morguefile.com/
- http://www.wylio.com/
- http://imagebase.davidniblack.com/main.php
- http://www.photos8.com/
- Once you have chosen and saved your images to the folder, begin your storyboard
- Go to Pages/Word Processing/Miscellaneous
- Select Storyboard
- Begin planning your trailer using the storyboard template

Remember to consider the following-

- 1. Are your chosen images relevant?
- 2. Will you include text?
- 3. Is the text relevant?
- 4. Where will choose to place text?
- 5. Are you complying with copyright rules?
- 6. Is your music choice relevant?
- 7. Does it suit the 'mood' you are trying to convey?
- Once satisfied with your storyboard, consider music choice.
- Use the following site to source creative commons licensed music (remember to save the URL's of the music chosen and paste them into a Word doc for later)
- https://creativecommons.org/legalmusicforvideos
- Open iMovie and begin creating your Book Trailer
- Don't forget to paste all URL's for sites used into a Bibliography Slide at the end of your book trailer.
- Use the following checklist to determine if your Trailer is ready to submit for assessment.

Book Trailer Checklist

You are NOT finished until you complete all of these steps!

Verify that every single image link works. If one doesn't work, you have 2 choices:

- replace the picture and cite the new one
- find the image and cite it properly

Put your citations in the order the pictures appear in the video. Make your citation slide pretty:

- Line up all the entries
- Make the fonts all the same
- Double check your spelling and capitalization
- Do this: file save as pictures
- Insert your citation picture into iMovie
- Double-check all of your spelling and grammar on your trailer text frames.
- Make sure your music matches the mood of the book.
- Make sure you have included the title, author, and book cover picture in the very beginning of your trailer.

Once you have done all of this, finalize the trailer, fill out the bottom part, and give this sheet to your teacher.

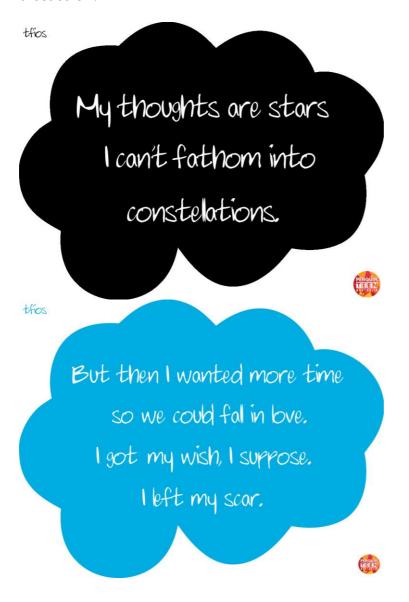
Name:
Book Trailer name:
Saved to folder/ server:

Book Trailer Rubric

Daily g	rade:
	/25: All images (except the book cover) found on sites listed
	/25: citation slide present at end of trailer
	/50: All links on citation slide work (-10 for each problem)
<u>Test gr</u>	ade:
	/50: Grammar (-5 points for each major error)
<u>Eleme</u>	nts:
	/10: Mood was obvious and consistent
	/5: Setting was represented and matched mood and pictures
sense	/20: Plot was introduced, but not completely revealed; it made
	/10: Pictures were interesting and made sense
	/5: Title of the book was included

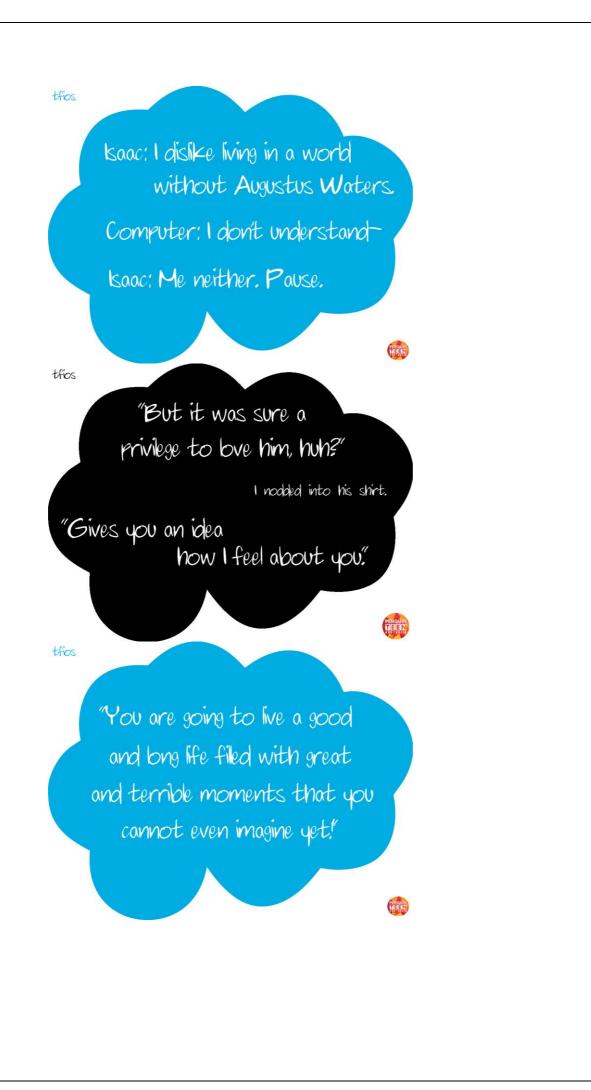
Quote Cards

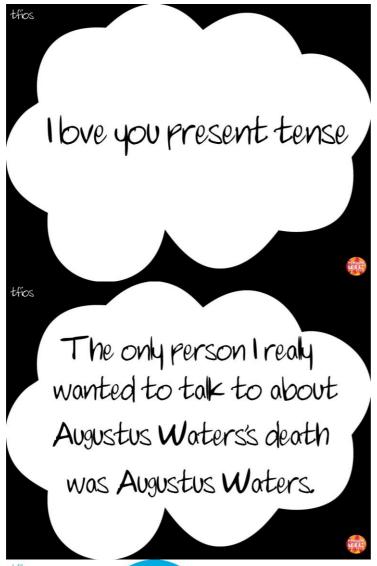
The following quote cards can be used in a variety of ways with students as writing prompts, tools for prediction, book trailer creation and class discussion.











tfios

We live in a universe devoted to the creation, and eradication of awarness. Augustus Waters did not die after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He died after a lengthy battle with human consciousness, a victim-as you will be-of the universe's need to make and unmake all that is possible.



tfios

Augustus Waters
died eight days
after his prefuneral
at Memorial in the ICU
when the cancer,
which was made of him,
finally stopped his heart,
which was also made of him.



tfios

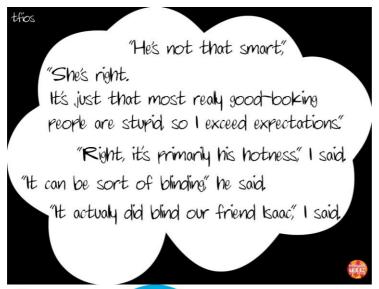
Augustus Waters' was the great star-crossed bve of mylife.



tfios

"When the scientists of the future show up at my house with robot eyes and they tell me to try them on. I will tell the scientists to screw off, because I do not want to see a world without him."





tfios

And so much depends, upon
a blue sky cut open by the
branches of trees above.
So much depends upon
the transparent G-tube erupting from
the gut of the blue-lipped boy.
So much depends upon
this observer of the universe.

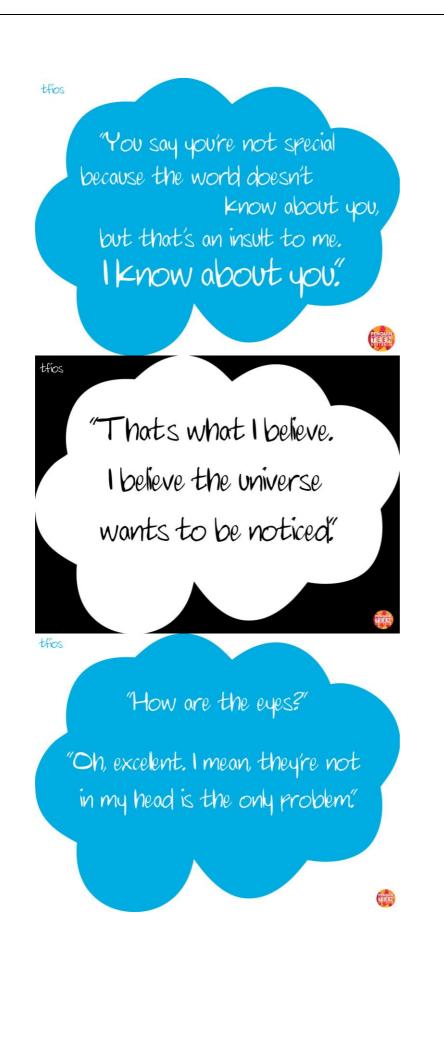


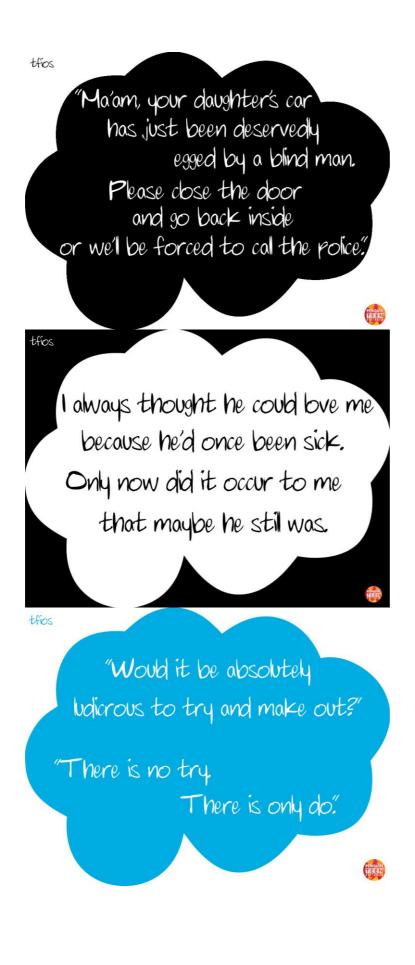
tfios

According to the conventions
of the genre, Augustus Waters Kept
his sense of humor till the end,
did not for a moment waiver in his courage,
and his spirit soared like an indomitable eagle
until the world itself could not contain
his joyous soul.



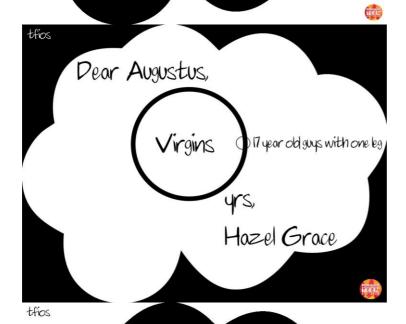






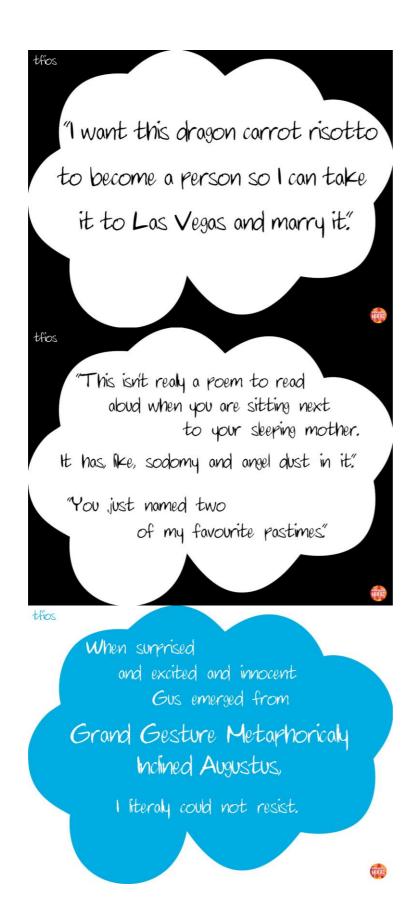
Only now that I bred a grenade did I understand the foolishness of trying to save others from my own impending fragmentation.

tfios



Some infinities are bigger than other infinities





"M in love with you,
and I'm not in the business of denying
muself the simple pleasure of saying true things.
I'm in love with you,

and I know that love is just a shout into the void and that oblivion is inevitable, and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when

al our labor has been returned to dust, and I know that the sun will swalow the only earth well ever have, and I am in love with you."

I'l give you my strength

if I can have your remission.

I've gotten really hot since you went blind.

