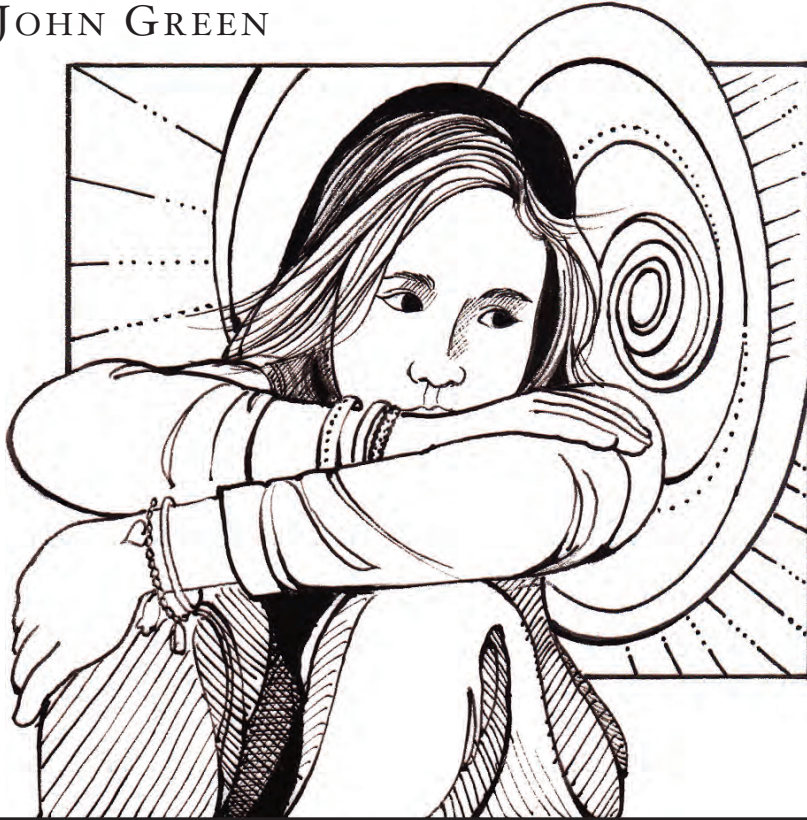


Novel•Ties

TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN

JOHN GREEN



A Study Guide

Written By Joyce Friedland

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *Turtles All the Way Down*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, and extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different book at its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each book, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for guided reading by distributing the book and a folder to each student. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter or group of chapters; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR / JOHN GREEN

John Michael Green is an American author, vlogger, writer, producer, actor and editor. He was born in Indianapolis in 1977. His family moved to Michigan, Birmingham, Alabama and finally to Orlando, Florida. He attended Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando. He later attended Indian Springs School outside of Birmingham, Alabama, graduating in 1995. He later used Indian Springs as the inspiration for the main setting of his first book, *Looking for Alaska*. Green graduated from Kenyon College in 2000 with a double major in English and religious studies. He has spoken about being bullied and it had made life as a teenager miserable for him.

After graduating from college, Green spent five months working as a student chaplain at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. At the same time he was enrolled at the University of Chicago Divinity School, but never actually attended the school. He intended to become an Episcopal priest, but his experiences working in a hospital with children suffering from life-threatening illnesses inspired him to become an author, and later to write *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Green lived for several years in Chicago, where he worked for the book review journal *Booklist* while writing *Looking for Alaska*. While there, he reviewed hundreds of books, particularly literary fiction. He also critiqued books for *The New York Times Book Review* and created original radio essays for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

Aside from being a novelist, Green is also well known for his YouTube ventures. In 2007, he launched the VlogBrothers channel with his brother Hank Green. Since then, the brothers have launched events such as "Project for Awesome" and "VidCon," and created eleven online series, including *Crash Course*, an educational channel.

Green lived in New York City while his wife attended graduate school. He now lives in Indianapolis with his his wife, Sarah Urist Green, whom he married in 2006. They have two children, Henry and Alice, as well as a West Highland Terrier named "Willy."

Green has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and has discussed his struggles with mental illness extensively on YouTube.

Chapters 1-3 (cont.)

- II. *Metaphor*—A metaphor is an implied comparison between two unlike objects. For example:

...so that the conversation [in the cafeteria] became mere sound, the rushing of a river over rocks

What is being compared?

Why is this better than just saying, “The cafeteria was noisy”?

Science Connection: Human Microbiome

Read the Background Information on the Human Microbiome and then go online to find additional articles on human microbiome. Learn why Aza is fascinated by the fact that half the cells in her body are not hers, that humans are 50 per cent microbial. What new facts did you learn from the article you read?

Social Studies Connection: White River

Do some research to learn about the White River in Indiana. Why was it a mistake to place the city of Indianapolis on the banks of this river? Why does it smell of human sewage? Are any attempts being made to correct this ecological problem?

Writing Activities:

- I. Aza remembered Davis Pickett as someone who saw the world in the same way as she did. Have you ever known anyone who you felt this way about? How did you become aware of your shared views of the world?
- II. Write about a real or imagined time when you embarked on an adventure that might have put lives at risk. Tell about your goals and your motivation.

CHAPTERS 16-19

Vocabulary: Use the context to figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then circle the best word or phrase that defines that word from the choices below each sentence.

1. Because frigid weather was forecast, it is advisable to wear the warmest coat you own, a hat, and gloves.
a. extremely hot b. pleasantly warm c. extremely cold d. very windy
2. When I am sad or lonely, I can find solace in a cup of hot tea and a call from a friend.
a. comfort b. fatigue c. anxiety d. trouble
3. When creating a timeline, you must put events in chronological order.
a. mathematical b. sequential c. ascending d. rigid
4. Even though there was a bounty for his capture, the family, eager to prove their son's innocence, put all thoughts of money aside.
a. victory b. trial c. purchase d. reward
5. To prove his sanity to the lawyer who was questioning him, the defendant described the steps he took to save the victims of a fire and restore the house they lived in.
a. lack of stability b. mental health c. serious illness d. guilt
6. Being the smallest boy in the class, I worried that I would have to encounter a bully sooner or later.
a. encourage b. ignore c. reform d. confront
7. The surgeon was able to stop the bleeding and sew up the laceration on my fore head as the result of a car crash.
a. seam b. gash c. wrinkle d. blemish
8. As a young child, I was always afraid that there was a monster lurking under the bed.
a. lying in wait b. frolicking c. dancing d. chasing me

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. Square Fish.
- Buxbaum, Julie. *Tell Me Three Things*. Ember.
- Glasgow, Kathleen. *Girl in Pieces*. Oneworld Publications.
- Greenberg, Joanne. *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*. St. Martin's Paperbacks.
- * Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*. Penguin.
- Kaysen, Susanna. *Girl, Interrupted*. Vintage.
- Lord, Emery. *The Start of Me and You*. Bloomsbury USA.
- _____. *When We Collided*. Bloomsbury USA.
- * Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*. Scribner.
- McCormick, Patricia. *Cut*. Push.
- Neufeld, John. *Lisa, Bright and Dark*. Berkley.
- Niven, Jennifer. *All the Bright Places*. Ember.
- * Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*. Little Brown.
- * Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*.
- Stone, Tamara Ireland. *Every Last Word*. Disney-Hyperion.

Some Other Books by John Green:

- An Abundance of Katherines*. Speak.
- * *The Fault in our Stars*. Penguin.
- Looking for Alaska*. Speak.
- Paper Towns*. Speak.
- Will Grayson*. Speak.

- * NOVEL-TIES Study Guides are available for these titles.