



**Rizal Technological University
College of Education
English Department**



***A Walk to Remember & The Fault in our Star: An Analysis of Romance Novels
Through Freytag's Pyramid***

Gagatiga, Mary Calia G.

ABSTRACT

Reading romance novels is crucial as they show how strong feelings can connect people. They tell stories about falling in love and overcoming challenges to be together. Two famous romance novels are "A Walk to Remember" by Nicholas Sparks and "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green. These books can be understood better using Freytag's Pyramid to analyze the plot structure. Through Freytag's Pyramid, it is evident that they have some similarities in themes: love and loss. While they differ in settings and how they find love. These novels allow us to understand the complex emotions of love, loss, and relationships. Through these stories, readers can learn about the power of love, even in difficult situations.

INTRODUCTION

Romance novels are a literary genre that focuses on the emotional and passionate connection between characters. It often exhibits intimacy, love, and conflicts or struggles faced by protagonists just to be together. Two acclaimed romance novels, namely Nicholas Sparks's "A Walk to Remember" and John Green's "The Fault in Our Stars," will be explored using Freytag's Pyramid.

"A Walk to Remember," authored by Nicholas Sparks, was published in October 1999. The book was a film adaptation in 2002, starring Shane West and Mandy Moore. "A Walk to Remember" is a story about a 17-year-old high school student named Landon Carter and Jamie Sullivan—a kind, intelligent, and deeply religious person. Their story starts when Landon asks Jamie to be his date, as required in the school dance. From there, Landon falls in love with Jamie, and they spend more time together.

The novel "The Fault in Our Stars" was written by John Green and published on January 10, 2012. The book was so successful that it had a film adaptation in 2014. "The Fault in Our Stars" tells the story of Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old girl with thyroid cancer. Hazel was forced to attend a support group where she met the person whom she fell in love with, Augustus Waters, a 17-year-old boy, and an ex-basketball player, amputee, and survivor of osteosarcoma.

DISCUSSION

The story of "A Walk to Remember" started when 50-year-old Landon Carter narrated the events from the past or in his senior year in 1958. He reminisces about his town, family, and Jamie Sullivan— a religious girl with whom he begins to spend his time. The story's inciting incident is when Landon was a 17-year-old high school student. Landon, elected as student body president, has to attend the Homecoming Dance, for which he invites Jamie Sullivan to be his date out of necessity. This date marks the beginning of their closer interaction, leading to the rising action when Landon accepts Jamie's invitation to play as the father in the Christmas play with Jamie as the angel. He also discovered that Jamie wants a church wedding full of people despite her social status and being an outcast in their school. Despite their argument before the play, the play was still a success, marking the climax of the story when Landon is stunned by how beautiful Jamie is with her white dress and realizes he is falling in love. Landon embraces her cause, helping her with charitable acts and realizing his deeper feelings for her. When the two begin dating, and Landon announces his love to her, Jamie decides to tell him that she is dying from a rare form of leukemia.

Landon asks Jamie to marry him after learning about her illness and realizing his purpose. This leads to the falling action of the novel when the two get married. Landon reflects on the impact Jamie has had on his life. He ponders miracles, revealing that Jamie might have died or experienced a miraculous recovery. The story ends with the older Landon reflecting on their love and their 40 years of being together. The novel's resolution leaves the reader contemplating whether Jamie died or she has survived, as Landon stated that he believes in miracles.

The story of "The Fault in Our Stars" started in a cancer patient's support group. In the exposition of the novel, Hazel Grace, a 17-year-old who is suffering from thyroid cancer, attends the support group because of her mother's request. She then met Augustus Waters there, who is in remission after losing a leg to osteosarcoma. Augustus approaches Hazel after the meeting to tell her that she looks like Natalie Portman in *V for Vendetta*. This leads to the story's inciting incident, where Augustus invites her to watch a movie in his house. They connect over their experiences with cancer and even talk about books. They form a bond and exchange their favorite novels—the *Price of Dawn* for Hazel and *An Imperial Affliction* for Augustus. The rising action starts when Hazel becomes fascinated with the unresolved ending of her favorite book, *An Imperial Affliction*, and Augustus helps her contact its author—Van Houten. Despite Hazel's health challenges, Augustus could track down Van Houten—Lidewij's assistant and plan a trip to Amsterdam to meet the author. Also, doctors do not think that traveling is good for her health. In the climax, Hazel and Augustus arrive in Amsterdam, and they find out that Van Houten is not nice and intelligent, telling Hazel he cannot answer her questions. Despite this, they continue their trip and tour Anne Frank's house. After the tour, they return to their hotel room and share intimate time.

In the falling action, Augustus confesses to Hazel that his cancer is back and has spread everywhere. His condition worsened, and he became vulnerable. Hazel confronts the harsh reality of losing him. Before he dies, Augustus holds a pre-funeral for himself. Hazel and Isaac say their eulogy; she expresses how much she loves Augustus and that she would not change anything about their time together, even if it were short. Augustus passes away eight days later, and Hazel grapples with grief. She was surprised by Van Houten's presence at the funeral as Augustus had asked him to compensate her for the ruined trip in Amsterdam. Van Houten answers Hazel's questions about his novel. He also drunkenly reveals that Ana in *An Imperial Affliction* is his eight-year-old daughter who died of cancer and that the novel was written as a way for him to cope with her death. At the end of the story, Hazel discovers the letter from Augustus, revealing his feelings and intentions. She finds solace in his words, expressing her contentment with her choice to love him.

After identifying the plot of the two novels through Freytag's pyramid, I found that they share some similarities and differences. Both novels tackled the theme of love and loss. They both highlight the beauty and pain of love that teaches the readers to appreciate life and the value of love. Also, to create a deeper connection, the two novels use first-person narration that allows readers to experience the emotions and thoughts of the protagonists. While they both have some similarities, the two novels have a unique story of how they find love. In the book "A Walk to Remember," Landon and Jamie develop a relationship by getting to know each other on a deeper level while spending time together. Hazel and Augustus' relationship in "A Walk to Remember" is deeply rooted in shared experiences. The two novels also have a considerable difference regarding the setting, "A Walk to Remember" is set in a small town in North Carolina in the 1950s. At the same time, "The Fault in Our Stars" takes place in contemporary America in Indianapolis and Amsterdam.

CONCLUSION

Utilizing Freytag's Pyramid helped organize the plot structure of the two novels, "A Walk to Remember" and "The Fault in Our Star." Through this, it is apparent that both protagonists of the two novels faced the challenges of having someone they love suffer from illness. Though they have differences, both novels show the value of love and appreciate the time people have with the people they love. It highlights the importance of finding joy in the little moments. Both stories explore the themes of love and loss, highlighting the beauty and suffering that come with love, which conveys lessons about appreciating life and valuing the value of love.