



ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Youngsters Nowadays. Where from, Where to?

Devising techniques for teaching literature: from reading to movies

PAPER TOWNS

“The town was paper, but the memories were not.”

“Paper Towns” is a novel written by John Green, primarily for an audience of young adults. It was published on October 16, 2008 and the movie was released on July 24, 2015.

PAPER TOWNS

The novel is about the coming-of-age of the protagonist, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen and his search for Margo Roth Spiegelman, his neighbor and childhood sweetheart.



John Green drew inspiration for this book from his experience and knowledge of "paper towns" during a road journey through South Dakota.



Main Cast

- 1. Nat Wolff as Quentin "Q" Jacobsen, the film's lead protagonist.***
- 2. Cara Delevingne as Margo Roth Spiegelman, Quentin's childhood friend and the object of his affection .***
- 3. Halston Sage as Lacey Pemberton, Margo's best friend, she later becomes one of Quentin's friends and Benjamin's prom date.***
- 4. Abrams as Benjamin "Ben" Starling, one of Quentin's best friends.***
- 5. Justice Smith as Marcus "Radar" Lincoln, one of Quentin's best friends.***
- 6. Jaz Sinclair as Angela, Marcus's girlfriend, and prom date, who later joins Quentin's circle of friends***

John Green

John Michael Green (born August 24, 1977) is an American author, vlogger, writer, producer, actor, editor and educator. In 2014, Green was included in Time magazine's list of The 100 Most Influential People in the World and his novel "Paper Towns" debuted in international cinemas.

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, John and Hank have launched events such as Project for Awesome and VidCon and created a total of 11 online series, including Crash Course, an educational channel teaching Literature, History, and Science, later joined by fourteen other courses.






A TEMPLE HILL
Production

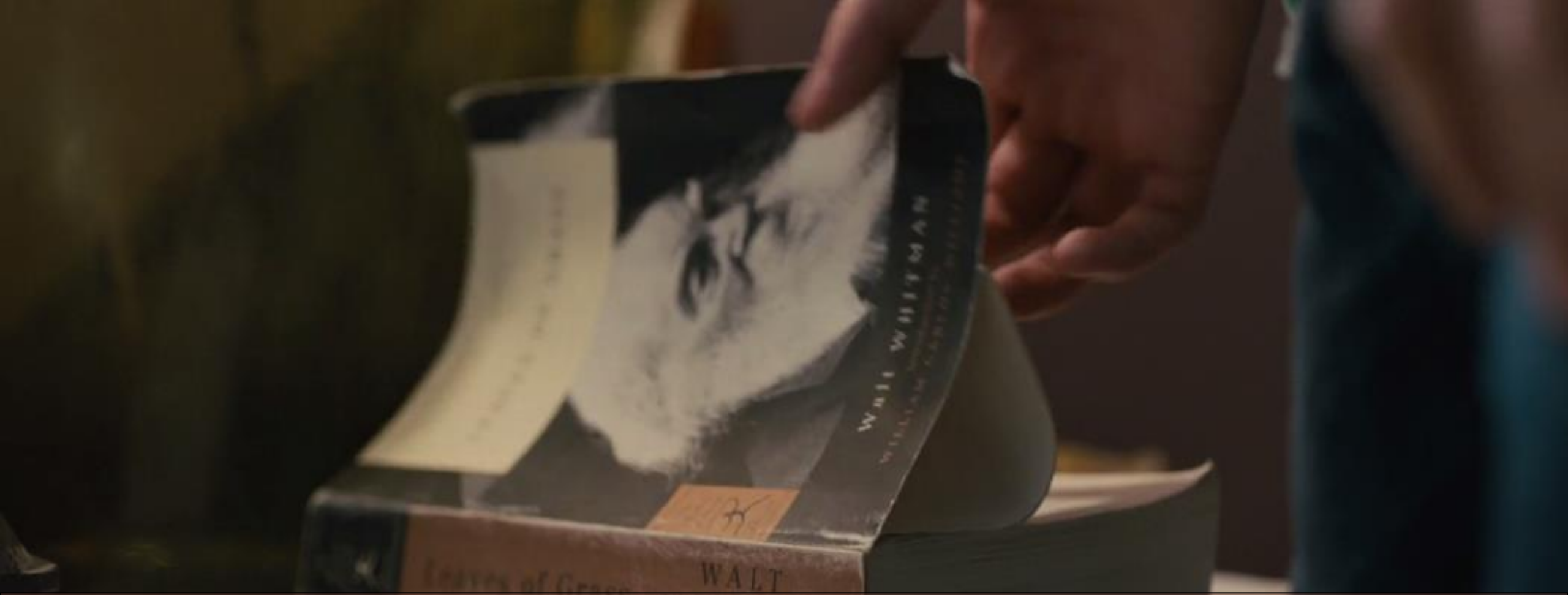


Brief Summary

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 but for that tragedy, Quentin has lived a balanced and well-adjusted life with few risks and little drama.

A person wearing a dark hoodie is seen from behind, looking out a window at night. The room is dimly lit, with light coming from the window. There are some framed pictures or posters on the wall to the left and right of the window.

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 soon 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 hope that he will find her. Along the way, Quentin realizes that Margo is not really the person he believed.

PRINTZ AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *LOOKING FOR ALASKA*

JOHN GREEN

FROM THE AUTHOR OF *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS*

Book vs. Movie

The story follows Quentin Jacobson (Nat Wolff), who spends the entire film trying to track down Margo Roth Spiegelman (Cara Delevingne), his elusive crush, who disappears after the two spend a mischievous night, pranking their high school classmates. Yet if readers are expecting the movie to be exactly like the book, that's not exactly what they'll get.

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

GET LOST GET FOUND
PAPER TOWNS

PaperTownsMovie.com

SUMMER 2015

#PaperTowns

1. Sea World

The background of the slide features a large, white, three-dimensional sculpture of two orcas leaping out of stylized waves. The waves are composed of several curved, overlapping layers. The word "SeaWorld" is partially visible in blue and white letters on the sculpture. In the background, there are trees with brown leaves, suggesting an autumn setting, and a building with a colorful roof.

In the book: Margo and Quentin break into Sea World, the only theme park Margo says she's never broken into. Margo gets bit by a snake, leading Quentin to try to suck the poison out.

In the movie: SeaWorld is never mentioned, which John Green acknowledged on YouTube, saying "no one was anxious to pay Sea World for the chance to give them good publicity."

2. Detective Warren

In the book: Quentin meets Detective Warren 48 hours after Margo's disappearance, admits he was with her Wednesday night, speaks privately with him and later calls him after he's discovered the mini mall.

In the movie: We see a Detective Warren, nearly exactly as Green describes him in the book, but that's the last we see of him.

3. Omnictionary

In the book: Radar spends a ton of time editing an “online user-created reference source called Omnictionary,” noticeably similar to Wikipedia. His knowledge comes into play when researching some of Margo’s potential whereabouts.

In the movie: We see Radar and other characters using Omnictionary, but there’s no mention of Radar’s involvement, and the shot is so quick that it just looks like Wikipedia.

4. Instant Messages

In the book: We get to see the characters' instant message (IM) conversations, including their screen names. Quentin's is QTHERESURRECTION. Radar goes by OMNITIONARIAN96 and Ben's reads ITWASAKIDNEYINFECTION, in reference to the "Bloody Ben" nickname he earned from a disturbing kidney infection that left him peeing blood.

In the movie: No IMing that we see, which makes sense, considering the Fault and Paper Towns screenwriters took out most of the video game playing in Fault. Both would have shown the beloved characters simply staring at screens.

5. The Road Trip

In the book: Quentin, Ben, Radar and Lacey decide to road trip to Agloe, N.Y. and Angela is left behind, unhappy with Radar as they were “scheduled to do something very special” after graduation.

Read: Have sex. They also get in a car accident, almost hitting some cows, but spin off the road as Ben turns the wheel to save the group. There’s minimal damage to the car, just a big gash in the side panel that Radar looks up, estimating it’ll cost \$300 plus paint to repair, what Quentin decides is “a small price to pay for

5. The Road Trip

In the movie: Quentin, Ben, Radar, Lacey and Angela decide to road trip to Agloe, N.Y., after discovering online that someone has edited the Agloe description, citing that the population is 1. The group wants to rush up to Agloe and back to get home in time for prom. Ben desperately has to pee, using a beer can to do so, but spills it on himself and Radar, that's why they need new shirts.

The car accident is roughly the same as in the book, but there's only one cow in the road, no one cries and a tire is blown out, which leads to an overnight stay on the side of the road.

Having Angela on the trip gave everyone involved a fun opportunity: For Radar to lose his virginity, for the world to meet Jazz Sinclair and for Green to admit he wishes he'd included her on the road trip in the book.



6. Prom Night

In the book: Quentin lies to his mom that he's going to prom alone but instead he spends the night trying to find Margo by going to a pseudovision and then in the mini mall filled with more of her clues.

In the movie: After reeling from his conversation with Margo, Quentin takes a bus back to Orlando and heads to prom.



Conclusion

Clearly we much prefer the book to the movie, but it's still a fun film. Quentin is a charming lead, Ben and Radar make great impressions as his best friends and there are loads of touching coming-of-age scenarios to connect to and enjoy, but there's just no way this story can strike as strong a chord when reduced to 109 minutes of screen time. Margo didn't just run away from home for a bit.

Conclusion

She cut off communication with her parents and Q was completely consumed by his need to find her for an entire month of their lives. Both sacrificed so much to find what they were looking for and by paring down the details of that journey and the effect it had on those around them, the movie winds up reducing the value of the entire story. Again, Paper Towns is a solid movie that you will likely watch and enjoy time and time again, but you'll also fairly certain that there was absolutely no way to squeeze enough of the book into the movie to ensure it would be as effective.

Famous «Paper Towns» Quotes

RISARODIL-TUMBLR
She
LOVED
mysteries
SO MUCH
that SHE
became
ONE.

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Margo's curiosity about the dead man's mystery that she and Q had found in the garden basically pushed her to live her life in that way and that's why she disappears so that she could do whatever she wants without being a burden on anyone. She becomes a mystery for him.

KISARODIL-TUMBLR

What a
Traucherous
TO THING
Believe
that a PERSON
IS MORE THAN
A PERSON

PAPER TOWNS

This line is a reflection of the tendency to see someone as very different from what they really are. You choose to overlook their flaws. They can do no wrong. You'll never cease to defend them. But what have they done for you? This is the ongoing, blind-sided reality that we face with those we see as more than a person. It's easy to get caught up in the lust, until they treat us like we never imagined they would. Like receiving your first pair of glasses, you finally see their flaws. You finally see their intentions which you previously misperceived.



This image of strings being cut, leaving children adrift, runs through the book. Detective Otis Warren, who is investigating Margo's disappearance, tells Quentin about kids like Margo: "These kids, they're like tied-down helium balloons. They strain against the string and they strain against it, and then something happens, and that string gets cut, and they just float away. ... Once that string gets cut, kid, you can't uncut it."

RISARODIL · TUMBLR

THE
TOWN
was
PAPER
but the
Memories
WERE NOT

PAPER TOWNS

The quote comes as Q's graduation date draws near. He realizes that, although the people around him have been indeed materialistic and "unreal, he still treasures the memories he has with them. That's precisely why graduating makes him feel a little sad.

IT'S SO HARD
TO LEAVE

UNTIL YOU LEAVE

THEN IT'S THE
EASIEST

G O D D A M N
THING IN THE
W O R L D

- JOHN GREEN -
PAPER TOWNS

Sometimes leaving something/someone can be the only way to set yourself free. It's hard to leave when you have so many reasons to stay, but once you do, you won't look back.

Honorable mentions

“Stop looking at the sky, otherwise one day you will lower your eyes and you will notice that you also flew away”

“If you don't imagine, nothing ever happens at all

“Humans lack good mirrors. It's so hard for anyone to show us how we look, and so hard for us to show anyone how we feel”

“I thought I was made out of paper. That I was the light and fragile one, not the others. Here is where the problem laid”

Final Monologue

When he finds her she says that she doesn't want to be found. Well that's a letdown. When he asks her to come home with him, she says no. But he at least gets to make out with her in a parking lot before they part ways. After they kiss, Quentin gives us the last line of the novel:

"Yes, I can see her almost perfectly in this cracked darkness". His staring at her reminds us of when they stared at each other in the darkness when they were kids. And the last line makes us recall another line from earlier in the book: Quentin says: "Margo's beauty was a kind of sealed vessel of perfection—uncracked and uncrackable". But by the end of the novel, he sees that she isn't perfect.

A young man and woman are shown in profile, kissing outdoors. The woman has long dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The man has short dark hair and is wearing a blue jacket. They are standing in front of a brick building with a window. The background is slightly blurred, showing trees and a street.

Final Monologue

Margo never wanted to appear as a perfect figure based on suppositions raised by her exterior appearance. This doesn't scare Quentin away though. He seems to accept her for who she really is, instead of trying to make her into something she's not. Quentin, therefore, offers a really important life virtue: "Not everyone can live a miracle, we must try to give importance to what we have: family, friends and love itself".

Thank you for your Time & Attention!

This illustrative graphical representation, for «Reading to Movies» about «Paper Towns», has been actualized by:

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