

Don't forget to be awesome!

John Green is a famous American author. Millions of teenagers have read his books, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Paper Towns*, which are also Hollywood movies.

John was born in 1977 in Indianapolis, but he grew up in Orlando, Florida. He went to school there, but he didn't enjoy it. John was tall, thin and shy, and other students bullied him. Luckily, things changed when he went to college. John studied English and Religious Studies there. After he graduated, he worked at a children's hospital, and then he decided to become a writer.

John moved to Chicago and got a job at a magazine. He wrote book reviews and he also started to work on a novel, *Looking for Alaska*. The book was based on his high school experiences and it was a big success! In Chicago, John also met and fell in love with Sarah, a girl from his old school. They got married and had two children.

1 Read the text quickly. Which of John Green's books:

- 1 are also Hollywood movies?
- 2 was his first novel?
- 3 is about sick teenagers?

2  2.35 Listen and repeat. Then complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the Vocabulary box.

Vocabulary Life stages

be born fall in love get a job get married
go to school/college graduate grow up
have children retire

- 1 John Green was born in the United States in 1977. T / F
- 2 He grew _____ in Indianapolis. T / F
- 3 When John _____ to school, other students didn't like him. T / F
- 4 After John graduated from college, he _____ a job at a children's hospital. T / F
- 5 John _____ in love with a girl from Chicago. T / F
- 6 They _____ married and _____ three children. T / F

3  2.36 Read and listen to the text. Read the sentences in Exercise 2 again and circle true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

Teenagers love John's books because they're different. They aren't about fantasy worlds, they're about real teenagers who live in the real world. *The Fault in Our Stars* is about two teenage cancer patients; *Paper Towns* is about a boy who loves a girl, although he doesn't really know her.

John Green has come a long way from the quiet kid at school. He's written best-selling stories, he's won five awards, and over 30 million people have read his books! So what's his advice for teens? 'Just remember that sometimes, the way you think about a person isn't the way they actually are,' he says. Then he adds: 'And don't forget to be awesome!' What does that mean? Well – do your best!



4 **Exam Spot** Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why didn't John enjoy school?
- 2 What did John study at college?
- 3 What three different jobs did John do?
- 4 What is *Looking for Alaska* about?
- 5 Why do teenagers like John's books?
- 6 What advice does John give to teenagers?

5 Do you know John Green's books or the films based on his books? If not, would you like to read or watch them? Why?                 