

An Abundance of Katherines
By John Green
Reviewed by Claudia Matthews

Hook:

Have you ever dreamed of having an "Eureka moment", a moment where everything just clicks in your mind, a moment when you know you have discovered something that could change the way society functions? Well Colin Singleton sure has. Ever since he dated his first Katherine he has always had this dying urge that he needed to be remembered for something and what better to be remembered for than an "Eureka moment"? Colin may seem like a normal child prodigy but with his dedication to having an "Eureka moment" and the fact that he has dated 19 girls named Katherine he is definitely far from it.

Summary:

There is always that one kid in school, the outcast that has one friend, he is the kid that uses unusually big words, the one that is dreaming about having an "Eureka moment" rather than the day school lets out for summer, he memorizes phone books and is obsessed with learning definitions of words that he will have no use for in the future, chances are there is at least one kid like that at your school **but is there a boy at your school who only dates girls named Katherine?** Colin Singleton is just another kid that does not fit in but there is one uncommon thing that sets him apart from regular outcasts, he has and will only date girls who go by the name Katherine. Colin has learned to deal with heartbreak over the years seeing as he has been dumped by 19 girls all who which go by the name Katherine but when the 19th Katherine dumps Colin he just can't seem to focus on anything not even his obsession with having an "Eureka moment". Colin's best and only friend Hassan wants Colin to forget about girls and focus on living his life the way Hassan does single, lazy, and content. In hopes of Colin forgetting about girls Hassan takes him on his very first road trip. Gutshot, Tennessee turns out to be the destination of this road trip, **will this small town show Colin the true meaning of love, friendship, and happiness and will he even have an "Eureka moment" along the way?**

Writer's Style 1:

John Green creates a **tone of intelligence throughout the book** An Abundance of Katherines through his **sentence structure**. Green creates **smooth and expressive sentence fluency** throughout the book. A **sentence that portrays** this is "and he was feeling not-unique in the very best way possible". (Page 215) This **sentence flows** very nicely and holds a lot of meaning in it. **Another sentence** that expresses smooth and expressive sentence structure is "And even though he felt pitiful and ridiculous, he didn't want it to end because he knew the absence of her would hurt more than any breakup ever could." (Page 40) This sentence has great **fluency** and it explains Colin's feelings in the moment after his and the 19th Katherine end their relationship. **One more sentence** that is very **expressive** is "And for the first time in his life, he smiled thinking about the always-coming infinite future stretching out before him." (Page 214) The way Green uses smooth and expressive sentences throughout An Abundance of Katherines is very

important **because if he would have chosen to use sentences that did not hold** a lot of meaning the whole feeling of intelligence could be gone from the book.

Writer's Style 2:

John Green creates a **relaxed mode by using remarkable imagery** to describe the small town Gutshot Tennessee. **The sentence** "On each side of the car, fields of squat, luminously green plants stretched out into a gray forever, broken up only by the occasional horse pasture, barn, or stand of trees." (Page 29) is a good example of how Green uses **imagery** to set a **very calm and relaxed scene** in the small town Gutshot Tennessee. Another example of the way Green uses **remarkable imagery** to describe the small town is the sentence "The road took a sharp, banked turn to the right and, past a strand of trees, a town emerged." (Page 57) This sentence lets the reader know that Gutshot Tennessee is a small town that is hidden away and hard to find. **The last sentence that uses imagery to help the reader picture** the town Gutshot is "Small but well-kept houses lined the road." (Page 57) These three sentences matter a lot because without them in the book us readers would not have a clear vision as to what the small town looks like and that is why the authors use of **imagery** in An Abundance of Katherines is very important.

Text to World:

During the time I was reading An Abundance of Katherines I came across a **video online** of two parents who had a child who attended college at the age of 12, I guess you could he's a child prodigy just like Colin. Colin Singleton is a normal child prodigy who spends his days memorizing definitions of words, studying for tests and doing difficult math equations for fun. **The child I watched in the video** was almost exactly like Colin. All he did was study for college exams and learn as much as he possibly could. The connection I made between these two boys was that they both are child prodigies who don't have a lot of friends and learn constantly. Making this connection **helped me to better understand** how Colin spends his days because I got to hear an actual child prodigy talk about his life

Text to Self:

During the time I was reading Green's book An Abundance of Katherines I made a **connection with the theme of the story, the theme of the story is you never know what the future has in store for you.** Colin Singleton is a washed up child prodigy who lives in Chicago and only dates girls named Katherine but little did he know that summer he would end up in a small town called Gutshot, Tennessee and fall in love with a girl named Lindsay. I can connect to him having no idea about his future because **last year I had no idea I would have the skill level to make a B level softball team** but it turns out I did considering I ended up making one. Making this connection helped me to better understand the story because I was able to understand how surprised Colin must have felt when his whole life was turned upside down.

Text to Text:

While I was reading An Abundance Of Katherines **I made a connection with another book I had previously read called Out Of My Mind by Sharon Draper.** In An Abundance of Katherines Colin Singleton is just another outcast in school who doesn't have any friends because his classmates believe he is "different" from them, reason being he is a child prodigy. In Out Of My Mind Melody is an outcast who doesn't have many friends the reason for her is she's in a wheelchair and none of her classmates feel the need to get to know her because they feel she looks different from them. By me making this connection **I was able to better understand how being an outcast can make you feel unhappy and out of place.**

Rating:

I am giving An Abundance of Katherines by John Green **3.5 out of 4 stars** because I really love books that capture my interest and **make me wonder about something**, and this book did just that. The character Colin Singleton made me wonder about child prodigies and how people actually do spend all their lives trying to convert themselves from a child prodigy into a full out genius. This book had such a great and interesting **plot** that made me to want to keep reading forever and never put this book down. I'm giving this book a 3.5 out of 4 stars instead of a full 4 out of 4 stars because although it was one of the best books I have ever read **it was also one of the most confusing.** Green creates such a **complex and unique character** that it is sometimes hard to understand Colin's thoughts. Overall this book was one of the best books I have ever read and I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a book that will capture their attention.

Final thoughts:

One of my final thoughts after reading An Abundance of Katherines was that the story had a great theme. **The theme of the story is you never know what the future holds for you.** This theme really made me think about how we have to be prepared for anything considering we have no idea what is coming our way.