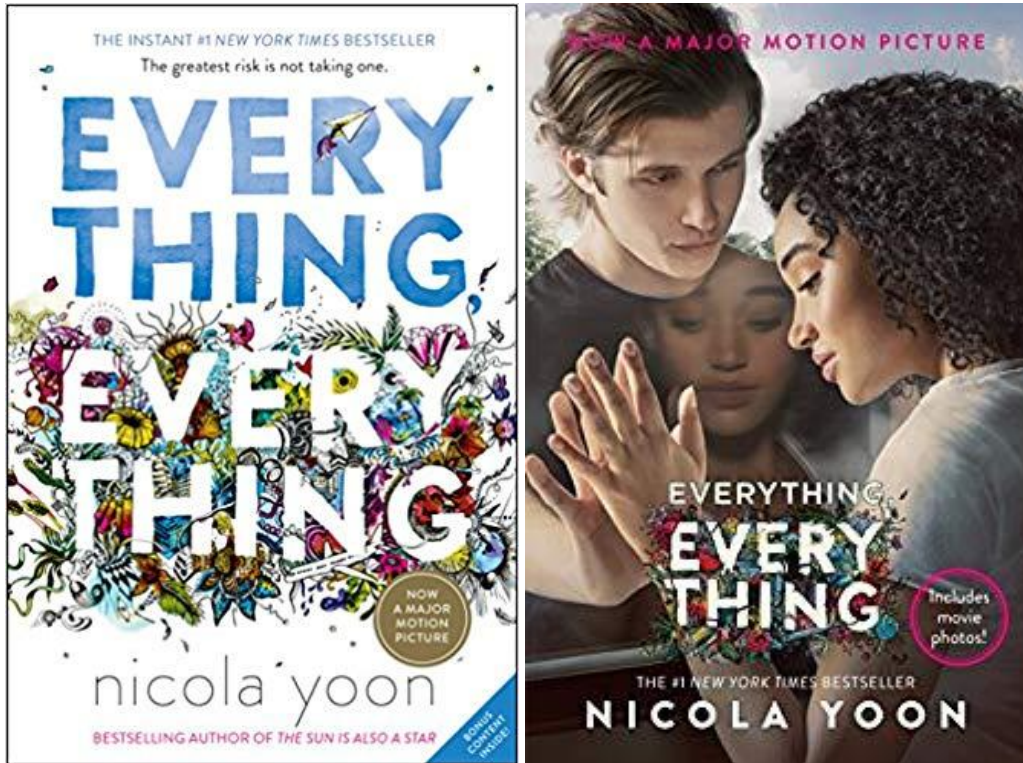


Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon



Nicola Yoon

<http://www.nicolayoon.com>



Nicola Yoon is a Jamaican- American, raised in Jamaica and Brooklyn and now lives in LA. Her first novel, *Everything, Everything* was inspired by her biracial daughter after she was born. At Cornell University, Yoon graduated as an Electrical Engineer. It wasn't until she took a creative writing class as an elective that got her hooked into writing. She worked as a programmer for 20 years before *Everything, Everything* was published. With its debut in 2015, *Everything, Everything* reached #1 in the New York Times Best Sellers List, as well as her second book, *The Sun Is Also A Star* upon its release in 2016.

She believes in love, is a hopeless romantic, loves karaoke and keeps all empty pens. She is also a member of the "We Need Diverse Books" team, an organization that fights for diversity in books.

Her Other Works

The Sun Is Also A Star

Everything, Everything

Everything, Everything is about Madeline, an 18 year old girl who is allergic to the world. Literally everything outside. She is said to have SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency). She is basically modern day "bubble boy." Because of her disease, she is contained from the outside world. Her house is completely decontaminated from everything. When she gets her books or anything from outside, they get vacuum sealed and sanitized before reaching her hands. Her nurse, Carla, takes care of her for 8 hours every day, and has been taking care of her for 15 years. Madeline spends her days inside her house in class (skyping her teachers), endless hours of reading (her favorite book is *The Little Prince*), and watching movies. Her mom works as a doctor and takes care of Madeline when she comes home from her hospital. Her dad and brother passed away in a horrible car accident when Madeline was 6 months old, so her mother is all she has. Her view on life changes after she meets Olly, the new boy that moves next door. Through their ever evolving relationship, she learns about love, hurt, exploration, and the drive of living. This drive leads her to something she's never done before, she leaves her home. What happens? You have to read it to find out! ;)

Significant Quotes

- "I look away and then look back quietly, trying to catch myself unawares to get a more accurate picture, trying to see what Olly will see. I try out a laugh and then a smile, with teeth and without. I even try out a frown, though I'm hoping I won't have cause to use it. Carla watches my antics in the mirror, amused and

bemused at the same time. 'I almost remember when I was your age,' she says. I don't turn around, talking instead to the Carla in the mirror. 'Are you sure about this? You don't think it's too risky anymore?' 'You're trying to talk me out of it?' She comes over and puts a hand on my shoulder.' Everything's a risk. Not doing anything is a risk. It's up to you.' I look around my white room at my white couch and shelves, my white walls, all if it is safe and familiar and unchanging. I think of Olly, decontamination-cold and waiting for me. He's the opposite of all these things. He's not safe. He's not familiar, He's in constant motion. He's the biggest risk I've ever taken." (68-69)

- **Significance:** This is the moment Madeline has been waiting for ever since her and Olly started talking. And it shows how nervous she is, just like any teenage girl would be. It's a feeling she never really felt before. She is second guessing everything she knew about safeness and familiarity. However, Carla reassures her that everything is a risk. Living life and not living life is a risk and she is taking one of her first risks of her life. Olly is the only change she has ever experienced in her bubbled life so far.
- "If my life were a book and you read it backward, nothing would change. Today is the same as yesterday. Tomorrow will be the same as today. In the Book of Maddy, all the chapters are the same. Until Olly. Before him my life was a palindrome - the same forward and backward, like 'A man, a plan, a canal. Panama,' or ' Madame, I'm Adam.' But Olly's like a random letter, the big bold X thrown in the middle of the word or phrase that ruins the sequence. And now my life doesn't make sense anymore. I almost wish I hadn't met him. How am I supposed to go back to my old life, my days stretching out before me with unending and brutal sameness? How am I supposed to go back to being The Girl Who Reads? Not that I begrudge my life in books. All I know about the world I've learned from them. But a description of a tree is not a tree, and a thousand paper kisses will never equal the feel of Olly's lips against mine." (162-163)
 - **Significance:** This is when Madeline fully feels the want and need of the outside world. Everything before Olly has been inside her safe home. But after Olly, she experienced what it's like to be touched, and to feel. Although, now she fears this because she keeps wanting more of it when she knows she can't have it. The more Olly visits her, the more she longs to be with him and to be outside. Nothing can compare to the feeling of his touch and or something as simple as a physical tree.
- "What's happening to me? It takes a moment before I realize that there are many, many things wrong. I'm shivering. I'm more than shivering. I'm shaking uncontrollably and my head *hurts*. My brain is being squeezed in a vise. Pain radiates out and crashes into the nerves behind my eyes. My body is a fresh

bruise. Even my skin hurts. At first I think I must be dreaming, but my dreams are never this lucid. I try to sit up, but my pain buries itself deep in my bones. The vise around my brain tightens and now there's an ice pick stabbing indiscriminately at the soft flesh. I try to cut out but my throat is raw, as if I'd been screaming for days and days. I'm sick. I'm more than sick. I'm dying. Oh, God, Olly." (234)

- **Significance:** This is when we finally see her disease fully. What it actually does to her body when she is infected by whatever it is from the outside world. She knew this was coming and yet it still seemed like a shock when it arrived. This goes back to the previous quote about everything being a risk. She knew it would be a risk, a big one at that, to leave to Hawaii, but she took it anyways, knowing the consequences. As the reader, I fully felt her pain when reading this and it brought her disease to life more at this moment than any moment prior.

Text Complexity

Lexile Level:

610L (Ages 14-17)

Dale-Chall Formula:

Raw Score: 2.2776

Adjusted Score: $(3.6365 + 2.2776)$

Final Score: 5.9

New Dale-Chall Readability Index:

Grade Level: (5-6)

I believe the age range for this book is 14-17. Readers in middle school can read this since it is quite an easy read and most of the vocabulary is not too hard to understand. Readers in high school may relate to the characters in this book quite easily. There are many themes including identity, exploration, risk, and love.

Why Young Adults Should Read *Everything, Everything*

A lot of young adults go through life wondering what there is beyond what they know. Even though in Madeline's situation, not many YA can fully connect, they can still connect to the fact that she wants to know more about what she doesn't know. There is a whole new world outside her "bubble." There are many YA who have their own bubble and they long for someone or something to push them to pop it.

Madeline also shows courage. She risked it all for her own life and wonder. A lot of YA fear risks and sometimes, they should step out into the unknown to find themselves in the process.

There are also YA or anyone in general that do suffer some sort of disease that might hinder them in life. This story helps people who do suffer from whatever illness they suffer through and lets them know there are other people like them. They can still live a full beautiful life with meaning.

Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story

This novel touches on themes from chapter 4 which deals with real life experiences. Madeline is risking her life to have a life outside of her bubble. She is dealing with a first love, first touch, first kiss. Every experience she has in the outside world is a real life experience.

Everything, Everything also touches on themes in chapter 5 that deals with death. Because her condition is so rare and extreme, and there is no cure, she is living her life knowing she could die soon. There is no doubt that every year is a miracle year that she survived.