Looking for Alaska: Theme Analysis

Theme: The general concept or message the author is trying to point out

- Fighting against a higher power
- Heart break/love
- Man struggles against society pressure
- Depression and Guilt/Grieving
- There is more to life and a person than you will ever know
- Finding Individuality
- How someone’s life touches and changes the way you see things
**Finding Individuality:** Miles came from a boring lonely life in Florida, he had no friends and felt like he wasn’t receiving the right things to get himself where he wanted to be. He needed to discover his “great perhaps”, that is why he decided to go to boarding school in Texas. I also think to find his great perhaps and figure out who he is he needed to be away from home and his parents.

**Man struggles against society pressure:** Miles also felt the need to fit in and have friends and be popular. His friends weren’t forcing him to drink or smoke but he felt the need to do it to fit in with them. This fits in with the finding individuality because part of discovering yourself is to try new things and you also discover new things from other people, many friends change your perspective.

**Heart break/love:** Miles reads/memorizes biographies because he is fascinated by people’s last words and likes to figure out people. As he believes people last words define us. But he can’t figure out Alaska and how her mind works that is why he is so fascinated with her. He knew that minute he was in love with her but it is requited love meaning only he loves her she does not love him.

**There is more to a person than you will ever know:** Miles thought he knew Alaska as he was deeply in love with her and did so much to impress her. But he later finds out why she is the way she is and why she smokes, drinks and is so crazy about boys. After she dies he really tries to discover who she is and if this was a suicide mission or a complete accident. The entire time they were friends they were stuck in this state of guilt and depression with Alaska’s mom dying and the only way she was being able to cope was for her to drink and smoke. Everyone else had other things going on like Colonel and his background and miles just followed. But after Miles finally accepted Alaska’s death he knows how she felt, the guilt of her mother.

**How someone’s life touches yours and changes the way you see things:** By moving on about Alaska this allowed Miles to see a glimpse of his great perhaps and really change who he is. After boarding school he was a totally different person, stronger as he got through everything and really discovered who he is as a person and how other people feel.

**Fighting against a higher power:** Even though miles had never had a history with trouble making he was desperate to be popular and feel like he belonged. This made miles get out of his comfort zone and do things he never had done before. One of those things included smoking, like when they got in trouble for smoking at that point he didn’t care if he would get in trouble he just wanted to impress Alaska. Also when was “day dreaming” in class and the teacher yelled at him and kicked him out, Alaska stood up for him. This motivated miles to do the same thing and fight against the higher power.

**Guilt and depression:** Alaska is unable to leave the tragedy of her mother’s death behind her, and so she is unable to come of age and move on with her life. Instead she smokes, drinks, and drives too fast until she self-destructs. She feels like she has nothing to live for: “y’all smoke for the fun of it, I smoke to die.”