

HENRY'S JOURNEY

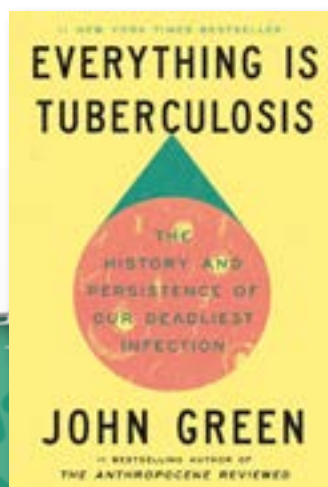
The author of *Everything is Tuberculosis*, John Green, did not initially intend to write about the medical and social history of tuberculosis. He and his wife were studying maternal healthcare in Sierra Leone, and a doctor asked if they could stop at a tuberculosis hospital.

While at the hospital (Lakka), a boy named Henry introduced himself and struck up a conversation with John. John saw many parallels with his own son, also named Henry, though John later learned that Henry looked far younger than his actual age because of malnutrition and many years of suffering with tuberculosis.

“Turns out, he wasn't 9 years old like I thought; he was 17. He had been so stunted by malnutrition and TB that he looked younger. That's what started my fascination with tuberculosis and eventually spurred my activism and advocacy.”

How do you think you will have a lasting impact on your community and friends?

How can we help support and build community?



**USA COMMON READ/COMMON WORLD
2026/2027 BOOK SELECTION:**

**EVERYTHING IS
TUBERCULOSIS**

USA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
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This is HENRY



Henry [Photograph], From *Everything is Tuberculosis* (p. 11), by John Green, 2025. Crash Course Books. Copyright [2019] by John Green.

Years later, after many failed treatments, a new regimen was successful, and Henry finally returned home. Through community support, his family was able to restart their business at a local market; Henry resumed his education and became a tuberculosis activist through platforms like YouTube. Henry and John remain friends today.

Who has impacted your life in ways that you did not initially imagine?