

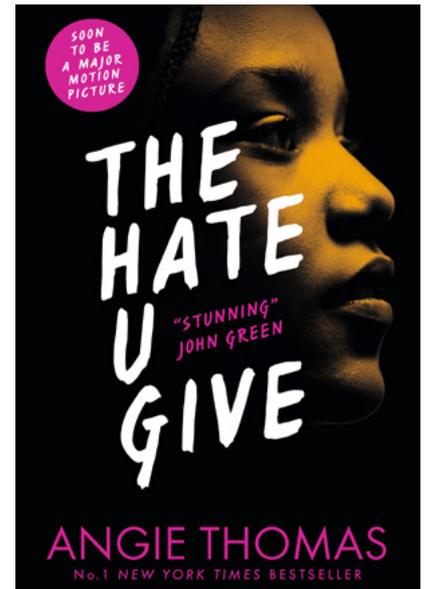
# THE HATE U GIVE

By Angie Thomas

Walker Books

2018 Carnegie Medal shortlist,  
eligible for Amnesty CILIP Honour

'Deals unflinchingly with the fear and anger which arise from prejudice and racism... dialogue and detail are authentic... the conclusion encourages discussion.' *Judging panel*



## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**Article 3:** We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety

**Article 7:** The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

16-year-old Starr has already held one of her friends in her arms as they died from gunshot wounds. Violence is a reality on Garden Heights. Then she witnesses a police officer murder her unarmed childhood friend Khalil. In the face of brutal injustice, discrimination and intimidation, will she speak up?

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this book is a searing representation of the discrimination and violence faced by black people in America, and the heart-rending courage it takes to stand up for yourself and others when the system is unjust.

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS STORY

The right to equality; to be safe; to be free from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; to privacy and not to be slandered; to freedom of movement; to everyone being legally protected; to choose our friends and relationships; to protest; to a good life with enough food, clothing, housing and healthcare; to education; to peace and order; to not be put in prison without good reason; to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

### YOU CAN TALK ABOUT...

#### The title

- How does the title suit this story and why did the author choose it? Reference Tupac's Thug Life.

- Is it also about the love we give? How?

#### Family

- How do Starr's family find ways to compromise and constantly support one another?
- How does Starr's father guide her through conflict?
- How would Starr define family? And Seven? How would you?
- Uncle Carlos recognises his mistakes. Discuss how you do that especially when it means questioning the actions of people we like.

#### Education

- Starr juggles Williamson prep school with Garden Heights. How hard is it to exist in two conflicting worlds?
- School is full of ignorant people who don't understand the life she lives. How does that make you feel?
- Why did Starr's parents send her there?
- Starr tries to 'hold her tongue' and use different language so she doesn't get labelled the 'angry black girl' from the 'ghetto'. Have you seen or experienced racist stereotyping?

#### Gangs

- Khalil was a gang member – why shouldn't that matter to the press or justice system?
- What choices did Khalil have to support his family once his grandmother was fired for being sick?
- How do the media portray Khalil? Is this right?
- Why might Ilesha not leave King?

### Police brutality

- Starr is taught what to do if stopped by the police. How does that make you feel? Do you think parents are having conversations like that? Have your parents talked to you about the police and in what context?
- What impact does it have to be constantly afraid of police officers?
- Were you shocked by Khalil's murder?
- Daddy tells Uncle Carlos: 'If I kill Tyrone, I'm going to prison. If a cop kills me, he's getting put on leave.' Why does this injustice happen?
- Was it a surprise when the Grand Jury indicted the police officer?

### Change and protest

- How do the police respond to the protests over the shooting of Khalil? Compare to any recent events.
- Does everyone at the Williamson protest do it just to cut class? How can we educate people who don't understand?
- Does social media help or get in the way of achieving justice?
- 'Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right' (Mamma). Discuss.
- Would you have conducted the TV interview like Starr?

### Prejudice and racism

- Starr says 'Funny how it works with white kids though. It's dope to be black until it's hard to be black'. What does she mean?
- Hailey challenges sexist behaviour. Why can't she recognise that her language and behaviour is racist?
- Starr tells Hailey 'You can say something racist and not be a racist'. What does she mean? Is Hailey listening?
- Starr and Maya form 'a minority alliance'. How does this solidarity bind them?
- At first, Starr denies knowing Khalil. Why?
- Starr finally admits to Chris that she was with Khalil. Why is this significant?

### Your voice

- Starr uses her 'voice as a weapon for change'. Does it make a difference?
- Does your voice matter? How can you use your voice to promote human rights?
- Do you notice images of silence and voice that recur?

### The ending

- Does it end 'right'?
- Has the book made you feel differently about your own life?
- What are the responsibilities of teenagers and adults in society?

### ACTIVITY

Rewrite one of the scenes in which Hailey is challenged for her racist language and behaviour so that she hears and accepts what Starr and Maya tell her. Think about how she would need to respond for her to understand, change and save her friendships.

### RESEARCH

Angie Thomas was motivated to write this book after seeing a video of the Oscar Grant shooting in 2009 which resulted in riots and protests in America. Find out about this incident, and the Black Panthers and the Black Lives Matter movement.

**'The truth casts a shadow over the kitchen – people like us in situations like this become hashtags, but they rarely get justice. I think we all wait for that one time though, that one time when it ends right.'**  
*Starr*

## WE ARE ALL BORN FREE AND EQUAL

The atrocities of World War II sparked a determination to protect the rights of all human beings everywhere. On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble says it must be shared, learned by children and be a part of all our lives.

When using these notes, you can download for reference:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights simplified version, especially useful for younger children [amnesty.org.uk/udhr](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/udhr)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [unicef.org/crc](https://www.unicef.org/crc)

For more free educational resources from Amnesty International go to [amnesty.org.uk/education](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

