The Hate U Give

by Angie Thomas



About the Book

The acclaimed, award-winning novel is now a major motion picture starring Amandla Stenberg, Russell Hornsby, Regina Hall, Anthony Mackie, Issa Rae and Common.

This hardcover edition features the movie poster art, full-color photos, and Angie Thomas in conversation with Amandla Stenberg and director George Tillman Jr.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil?s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: What *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does --- or does not --- say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

And don't miss ON THE COME UP, Angie Thomas' powerful follow-up to THE HATE U GIVE, which releases on February 5, 2019.

Discussion Guide

1. As Starr and Khalil listen to Tupac, Khalil explains what Tupac said ?Thug Life? meant. Discuss the meaning of the term ?Thug Life? as an acronym and why the author might have chosen part of this as the title of the book. In what ways

do you see this in society today? (Chapter 1).

2. Chapter 2 begins with Starr flashing back to two talks her parents had with her when she was young. One was about sex (?the usual birds and bees?). The second was about what precautions to take when encountering a police officer (Chapter 2). Have you had a similar conversation about what to do when stopped by the police? Reflect upon or imagine this conversation.

3. Thomas frequently uses motifs of silence and voice throughout the book. Find instances in the book where silence or voice and speech are noted, and talk about the author?s possible intentions for emphasizing these motifs.

4. At the police station after Starr details the events leading up to the shooting, the detective shifts her focus to Khalil?s past. Why do you think the detective did this? Discuss Starr?s reaction to this ?bait? (Chapter 6). Discuss the way that Khalil is portrayed by the media. How does Starr work to counteract this media portrayal?

5. How do you think Starr would define family? What about Seven, DeVante, Kenya and Khalil? Do you have to be related by blood to consider a person family? How do you define family?

6. Once news of Khalil?s shooting spreads across the neighborhood, unrest arises: ?Sirens wail outside. The news shows three patrol cars that have been set ablaze at the police precinct?A gas station near the freeway gets looted?My neighborhood is a war zone? (Chapter 9). Respond to this development and describe some parallels to current events.

7. Chris and Starr have a breakthrough in their relationship --- Starr admits to him that she was in the car with Khalil and shares the memories of Natasha?s murder (Chapter 17). Discuss why Starr?s admission and releasing of this burden to Chris is significant. Explore the practice of ?code switching? and discuss how you might code switch in different circumstances in your own life.

8. How and why does the neighborhood react to the grand jury?s decision (Chapter 23)? How does Starr use her voice as a weapon, and why does she feel that it is vital that she does? Refer back to ?Thug Life? and discuss how the acronym resonates in this chapter.

9. Maverick?s rose garden is a recurring symbol throughout the course of the novel. Discuss the symbolism of the rose garden and how it contributes to the overall theme.

10. Starr pledges to ?never be quiet? (Chapter 26). After reading this book, how can you use your voice to promote and advance social justice? Reflect on how you and your community discuss and address inequality.

Author Bio

Angie Thomas made her debut with the #1 *New York Times* bestselling, award-winning novel THE HATE U GIVE. A former teen rapper who holds a BFA in creative writing, Angie was born, raised and still resides in Jackson, Mississippi.

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