



**NANCY:** An important novel for our time, wonderfully written by a captivating storyteller who weaves together the voices of her world and invites us in to listen and learn as the tale unfolds. I found myself laughing and crying and hoping for some good resolution. Kudos to Angie Thomas for writing out of her grief a novel that opens wide a problem of racial discrimination that we face as a society. Finding a good resolution does not yet seem possible, for Thomas and the rest of us, but this book helps express the cry and hopefully will lead into change.



**KATHARINE:** Now this book I suggest for criminal justice classes and police academies! We need to help those fighting crime think carefully about what they are doing and how they approach youth and people of color. Of course, it would be good for other classes, too. A good common course book for my college, I think. Thank you for picking this book for us to read!



**ABIGAIL:** I found this book heart breaking in many ways. From the picture it paints of the gangs and the reality of life in the “hood”, to how it affects the young people trying to survive and then the larger issue of how do we solve the problem? From Starr’s perspective, we really get a good view of how difficult navigating the realities are and how effecting change seems almost impossible.



**MOLLY:** Yes! Yes! Yes! I’m so happy that Angie Thomas wrote this book and that it’s a movie now. Again and again, she gets hugs and praise for telling the story of so many black youth in our country as she takes this book out. They tell her thanks for saying what they feel all the time. It’s not easy to have dark skin in this country. You white folks have no idea, but this book opens the door.



**PRISCILLA:** Oh my! The hood is not a nice place to be, is it? The police have a hard time trying to figure out what to do. I know they can make mistakes, but sometimes they get killed too? She wasn’t fair to them. What’s their story?



**JANE:** Go, Starr! I loved this strong young woman coming of age in a difficult situation and doing her best to do what was right, even though in the end it didn’t seem to make a difference. This book did open my eyes quite a lot. Molly, you’re right, this book opens a door to understand and that’s a beginning.



**SALLIE:** Whew, what a story she wove! And of course I’m focusing on the kids. What a place for them to grow up, in the hood, with gangs and violence, parents on drugs, trying to learn what they can do to survive. Not easy for them. And then what the black people have to teach their children about the police? It’s crazy, crazy, crazy. And how to we solve this problem? It just seems to be getting worse. Breaks my heart. MAMs, what can we do?



# Discussion Guide

## About the Book



Book Title: The Hate U Give

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## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Could you identify with Starr, the main character of the book? Why or why not? Did she seem like a believable character to you? Why do you think the author chose her perspective to tell the story?
3. Growing up in the “hood” Starr and her friends navigated many difficult situations. What did you think of the descriptions of the neighborhood experiences? Were they familiar or foreign to you?
4. What did you think the message was in this book?
5. What has been your own experience with the police? What is your attitude about them? How have you been treated during a traffic stop? Do you think your race had anything to do with how you were treated? Why or why not? If not you yourself, have others you know had bad experiences with the police? Do you think race had anything to do with it? Why or why not?
7. Statistics show that minorities are targeted by the police. How do you think we can stop this problem as a society?
7. Would you recommend this book to others to read? Why or why not?
8. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
9. In what ways, if any, will this change your life or perspective?

### On YouTube:

[Tupac Inspired Angie Thomas's New Book | The Hate U Give \(2:39\)](#)

[The Hate U Give: The Powerful Message Behind The Best-Selling Novel And New Film | NBC Nightly News \(2:22\)](#)

['The Hate U Give' Interview w/ Amandla Stenberg, Angie Thomas, Anthony Mackie & More | \(3:37\)](#)