

Title: *The Hate U Give*
Author: Angie Thomas
Category: Race and Ethnicity

Response Submitted By: Owen M., 9th Grade

Date Submitted: December 5, 2020

1. What is the main plot of this book?

This book is about Starr Carter and how she had to ignore the fact that her best friend had been shot in front of her and continue her life without any form of justice for him. Starr was going to a spring break party and decided to leave after some kids started shooting guns in the air. She and her friend, Khalil, drove home but they were pulled over by the police. The cop asked Khalil to exit his car, Khalil complies and tries to grab his hairbrush, a nervous habit. Somehow the cop mistakes the brush for a gun and feels threatened by a fifteen-year-old. So, he shoots him twice while he was standing, and once into his already dead body. The cop then threatens Starr as she tries to help Khalil. Over the next few weeks, you see Starr become numb to the fact that she had seen one of her closest friends brutally killed. Starr and her family try to persecute the cop, but nothing comes of it. Throughout the rest of the book you get to see Starr turn from a scared teenager to someone determined to make a change in the world starting with getting rid of the terrible white privilege her country had seen.

2. Which character did you most identify with and why?

I felt that I identified most with the character named Chris. He is Starr's boyfriend from her private school. He starts out as this character you feel inclined to hate, but after a few chapters and seeing how understanding and completely fine with Starr's personal life he is you get the feeling that he would be a super cool person to hang out with.

3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?

I believe the main message of this book is Racial Inequality. I have never personally experienced this, I have read about it before, but this still jarred me, that something as blatant as what was going on in the book existed and everyone was fine with it.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?

This book was in no way "too preachy". The theme was subtle and fell throughout the book in a way that kept reminding you it was there but without a bunch of glowing neon lights that some books have.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

There were quite a few sides within this book, there was Starr's perspective, the actions of defendants of the cops and some racist bystanders who made Starr and her sibling lives miserable.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about the topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

My beliefs were not changed in any way, if anything they were stabilized. The ideas that were floated through this book were very much things I can believe, and I understand. Watching how someone reacted to their best friend getting shot and then how he turned into a slogan or a hashtag was kind of heartbreaking, especially since it's written in the first person because you feel like you are the one talking.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

I know some people would hate my saying this, but we need the cop's side of the story, and we need it to be more in depth than what it is now. We got a glimpse inside his head, but it was very much propagandized by his own side to make him seem like a good person.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topic further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?

This book made me want to research more, specifically about Tupac and what he sang about.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

A teen would do fine with this. It is a well written book, easy to comprehend, but it does touch upon some matters that have had a lot of light shed on them in the past few months.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

I don't know if a book can live up to this one's reputation, but if I had to recommend one it would be the same one that I mentioned last time, I still can't remember the name but it is at Emma Clark Library and it is about a teen boy who killed his father because he didn't want to be a part of a neo-Nazi group anymore. ***

***Emily Ostrander, the Teen Librarian, believes the book Owen is referring to is called *Devils Within*, by S. F. Henson.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/10/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book focuses on Starr Carter and how she navigates between the poor neighborhood she lives in and the wealthy suburban prep school she attends. However, the plot escalates when her childhood friend Khalil is shot and killed at the hands of police. The book follows Starr's perspective on the situation and how her unarmed late friend was ultimately targeted by police based on the color of his skin.

2. Which character did you most identify with and why?

The character that I most identify with is Starr Carter because her experience as a person of color is unfortunately relatable to many other teens across America. It seems that her experience of facing racism towards her race is an experience many other people of color have faced. I really liked her character because she was able to show her strength despite the huge opposition against her.

3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?

I think the main message of this book is to stand up for what you believe in and to fight against prejudice and racism that creates harmful stereotypes on others. I also think it shows the importance of fighting for justice, so that people cannot get away with spreading hate or acting violently towards other people based on the color of their skin.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?

I think the author did an incredible way of portraying the message of this book and did so in a heartbreaking way that shows the reality of situations that many people of color have faced in America. I did not think it was too preachy at all.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

Throughout the book, Starr struggles with the choice she has to make about whether she should tell people what really happened the night of Khalil's murder. This internal conflict is especially important to Starr because what she does or does not say could potentially alter her life or the community she lives in drastically. After reading the book, I believe I agree with the perspective to fight for justice and against systemic racism. I think using your voice and exposing the racism within your community is an important step to condemn violent, racially driven acts from occurring.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

After reading this book, my views on racism and how it harmfully affects people of color in America was reaffirmed because this story is one that, unfortunately, everyone has heard of before.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

One thing I wish the book delved deeper into is how Khalil's tragic death affected others around him, besides Starr. I think this would be helpful to see how much of an impact one person has on a community and why the death of Khalil is so significant to the plot.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?

Yes, this book led me to pursue further research on systemic racism that can be found in police departments and how we can better our community by condemning racism.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

This book is fearlessly honest and fights against police brutality for victims who may not have had someone like Starr to fight for them, which is why it should be read by people of all ages and backgrounds.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

One other book that I think would be a great addition to this category is On the Come Up, because not only is the author the same, but it tells the story of fighting for your dreams and freedom.

Response Submitted By: Anna L., 9th Grade 9

Date Submitted: March 26, 2022

1. What is the main plot of this book?

I think that the main plot of this book is to bring attention to police brutality in predominantly Black neighborhoods and how it affects innocent people. I think it also touches on ignorance of privileged white people living in areas such as where Williamson High School is in this book. The character Hailey was Starr Carter's, the main character's, best friend in the white school. Hailey showed prejudice when Khalil, Starr's best friend since elementary school in Garden Heights, was killed by an officer who mistook his hairbrush for a weapon.

2. Which character do you relate to the most and why?

I don't think I could relate to a character in this book. I certainly can not imagine what it is like to be faced with racial discrimination and hate when I never have. I have no idea how it is to face racism. I certainly can not relate to having my best friend be shot when I have never had to experience that. I also do not relate to Hailey because I try my best to educate myself and I do not believe certain things that Hailey and many other of Starr's Williamson classmates do.

3. What do you think the main message of the book is?

I think that the main message of the book is empowerment and giving love rather than hate to Black people. As simple and seemingly obvious as it sounds it is not done nearly enough. I think this is a great book on the issues faced by over-policed areas which are more often than not predominantly Black neighborhoods.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?

Honestly the point of this book was for Starr to preach what she believed in for Khalil, so the book would be expected to be a bit "preachy". I think the author does a great job of keeping the story going intense and moving with the message still strong.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

I agreed with Starr. In the defense of Khalil, Starr vs the officer who shot him, I agree with Starr's points and beliefs.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

My thoughts on the famous saying "The Hate U Give Little Infants F Everybody" from Tupac were reaffirmed through reading this book. The hate young black kids and teens face messes everything and everyone up. The character Khalil had said this in the book.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

I do not think there is anything I would change or add to this book, Angie Thomas did an amazing job with it.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?

Definitely. I am always more encouraged to read more and more and educate myself more on racial divides and inequality. I am also encouraged to take more action in my community and online on these issues. What is most important that this book helped teach me is to LISTEN to black voices and empower voices of those who are ignored.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

Really anyone, it is a book that covers serious topics but people of any age should be exposed to these things, not just children that it directly affects like how Starr was told when she was just 9 years old. If someone is interested in different perspectives and racial justice I would recommend this 100%.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

- *The Dragons, The Giant, The Women* by Wayetu Moore, a book about her life fleeing Liberia from the first Liberian Civil War and her experience growing up Black in the Southern United States.

- *Dig.* by A.S. King, a book exploring the advantages and evil of white privilege.

- *When they call you a terrorist- a black lives matter memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & Asha Bandele. It is a memoir reflecting the unjust American criminal justice system and how it affects everyone. The author Patrisse Khan-Cullors is the co-founder of Black Lives Matter.

- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, an eye opening book about slavery and the escape of an enslaved girl. The Underground Railroad is an actual system of tracks and tunnels in this novel. It recreates the horrors faced by human beings in the antebellum era.

Respondent's Name and Grade: Zahra V., 8th Grade

Date Responded To: July 7, 2022

Questions:

1. *What is the main plot of this book?*

The plot of this book follows sixteen-year-old Starr Carter who moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy, predominantly white suburban prep school she attends. When Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend Khalil by a police officer, her world is shattered. She is forced to see her unarmed friend be labeled as a thug, a drug dealer, and a gangbanger simply because he is Black. This harsh reality is only known by Starr, who was present at the murder. While coming out with the truth would avenge her friend, Starr is also putting her community, her family, and herself at risk.

2. *Which character did you most identify with and why?*

Although my experiences are different from Starr, I identified most with her because I understand the feeling of not always fitting in as a person of color. Reading about her experiences and the harm police forces have done to Black families across America was gut wrenching and made me delve deeper into the injustices within our country.

3. *What do you believe is the main message of this book?*

I believe the overarching message of this book is that Black Lives Matter. Oftentimes, the struggles of Black communities in America are pushed under the rug and police officers are allowed to continue their racist acts of violence without any punishment. The murder of Khalil is something we have all heard on the news dozens of times. Reading it now in book form opened my eyes even more to how such events affect families and communities of color, and why it is so important to shed light on such stories.

4. *Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?*

No, I think this book did an incredible job at juggling important topics such as racism, class struggles, poverty, and police brutality. Reading the story only inspired me to do more research and did not come off as “preachy” at all.

5. *If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?*

The two perspectives seen in this book were those of the Black community who suffered the loss of Khalil, an innocent Black man who was murdered solely for the color of his skin, and the racist white people who labeled him as a thug to justify the police officer’s actions. I agree with Starr’s perspective on the event as what occurred was a horrific act of violence against an innocent man who did not deserve to die.

6. *In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?*

This book reaffirmed my belief that Black Lives Matter and led me to conduct further research on how police brutality affects people of color at a staggering rate in the United States. Reading about how shocked Starr was at the horrific event made me realize that this story is a true one for so many people in America and that change must occur to prevent such attacks from happening.

7. *What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?*

I don’t think any perspective is missing from the book. In fact, I like how this book describes a variety of perspectives. For example, in Chapter 10, Starr has a panic attack at a police roadblock and imagines the police shooting her. I thought it was very impactful to describe how the event affected Starr mentally and how this event will affect her in the future.

8. *Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?*

Yes, this book encouraged me to pursue the topic of police brutality in America further because of how much it has run rampant in America over the past few years. After the horrific murder of George Floyd, reading this book gave me better insight on the event and how it impacts families, communities, and that nation.

9. *What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?*

I would suggest this book to teenagers of all backgrounds to show how much police brutality affects people in America. I would recommend this book to people who are in 8th grade and up as it discusses mature topics that should be understood and be taken seriously.

10. *What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?*

Another book that I think would make a good addition to this category is *On the Come Up*, another novel by Angie Thomas. This book follows Bri, a 16 year old girl aspiring to be a hip-hop legend. The story is relevant because it reminds us that young people can make a difference and be the catalyst for change.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Tatjana T., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 10, 2023

1. The main plot of "The Hate U Give" revolves around a young black girl named Starr Carter who witnesses the fatal shooting of her unarmed black friend, Khalil, by a white police officer. The story follows Starr's journey as she navigates the aftermath of the incident, including speaking up for justice, dealing with systemic racism, and finding her voice.

2. I related the most to Seven Carter. I am also the oldest child from separated parents, which is what initially drew me to relate to seven. But he was also intelligent and fiercely protective of his siblings and family. While I am white, my younger half siblings are mixed and there have been times where people have treated them differently because of it and I would have conversations similar to those between Seven and his siblings.

3. The main message of "The Hate U Give" is about addressing systemic racism, police brutality, and social justice issues, particularly within the context of the Black Lives Matter movement. It advocates for the importance of speaking up against injustice, standing up for marginalized communities, and using one's voice to advocate for change.

4. I believe that the main message of the book was effectively integrated into the story. While the author passionately conveys the realities of racism and the importance of social justice, it does not come across as preachy, but rather as a reflection of the lived experiences of the characters and the broader societal issues they confront.
5. As a supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, I would agree with the perspective that systemic racism and police brutality are pervasive issues that disproportionately affect black communities, as highlighted in the book. The author portrays the impact of these issues through the experiences of Starr, her family, and her community, shedding light on the need for systemic change and social justice.
6. Reading "The Hate U Give" reaffirmed many of my beliefs about the importance of addressing racism, advocating for social justice, and supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. It also deepened my understanding of the challenges and struggles faced by black individuals and communities in navigating systemic racism and injustice.
7. While "The Hate U Give" offers a powerful and authentic portrayal of the black community's experiences, perspectives from individuals who hold opposing views, such as those who may not support the Black Lives Matter movement, may be missing from the book. This could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding the topic.
8. "The Hate U Give" may encourage me to pursue further reading, research, and action in advocating for social justice, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, and actively challenging systemic racism in various spheres of life, including education, law enforcement, and social policies.
9. "The Hate U Give" would be recommended for readers of diverse ages, particularly young adults and above, who are interested in social justice, racial equality, and contemporary issues related to race and racism. It may particularly resonate with readers who support the Black Lives Matter movement and seek to deepen their understanding of the experiences of black individuals and communities.
10. "Dear Martin" by Nic Stone and "All American Boys" by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely are two other books that would make good additions to this category of Perspectives biography. Both books tackle similar themes of racism, police brutality, and social justice, offering different perspectives and insights into the experiences of black individuals and communities in contemporary society.

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 9th Grade.

Date Reviewed: March 25, 2024

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows a 16-year-old Black girl that goes to a mostly White school. The story develops and starts when the narrator Star Carter's close friend gets killed due to police brutality.

2. Which character did you most identify with and why?

I don't really identify with most of the characters.

3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?

I believe that the main message of this book is to inform people about police brutality against minorities and racism that minorities such as the Black community receive from the police.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?

I don't think it is preachy but rather more informing and standing up for the greater cause.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

There were 2 topics. I agreed more with the racism against minorities topic because it happens every day and nobody really stands up for it.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

None of my beliefs have really changed from reading this book.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

I don't think any perspective was missing from this book.

8. *Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?*

No, I didn't really do any further research or topic after reading this book.

9. *What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?*

I would recommend this book to someone who wants to learn more about this topic of racial injustices.

10. *What other book(s) you have read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?*

Another book I have read that can relate to this is the book African Town which also shows the racial injustices of African Americans.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kate G., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 14, 2024

1. *What is the main plot of this book?*

In the book *The Hate You Give*, Starr Carter is a 16-year-old African American girl who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend, Khalil by a police officer. Starr struggles to balance her life in her predominantly black neighborhood, Garden Heights, and her life at Williamson Prep, a predominantly white private school. As Starr deals with the aftermath of Khalil's death, she is faced with issues of racial injustice, police brutality, and finding her voice in advocating for justice for her friend.

2. *Which character did you most identify with and why?*

I most identified with Starr Carter because like Starr, I would feel compelled to advocate for my friend if they had been subjected to injustice. I feel very strongly about standing up for what's right and for speaking up for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

3. *What do you believe is the main message of this book?*

I believe that there are several main messages of this book. One important message is the fight against racial injustice and the importance of using your voice to advocate for change. Another important message is the idea that if you stay silent, nothing will change. Starr initially is afraid to speak out after Khalil's death because she is afraid of the reaction from her peers and the media, but when she finds her voice and uses it, she becomes powerful and inspires others to do the same.

4. *Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too "preachy"?*

I didn't feel that the message was "preachy" at all. I thought the author did an exceptional job of showing how difficult it was for Starr to speak up, yet when she did the powerful impact that it had. I also thought it encouraged readers to consider their own biases, assumptions, and what they would do if presented with a similar situation.

5. *If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?*

Two conflicting perspectives that were presented in this book were Starr's and her Uncle's. Starr was a witness to Khalil's shooting and she struggles with the trauma of witnessing her friend's death, the pressure to speak out against injustice, and the complexities of navigating different aspects of her identity in her predominantly black neighborhood and predominantly white school. Her Uncle Carlos represents the police perspective, which represents the internal conflict many law enforcement members are faced with— their duty to uphold and protect the law and their loyalty to their community. Uncle Carlos shares the challenges and pressures that police officers are faced with. While both perspectives are vastly different, I can agree with and empathize with both.

6. *In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about a topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?*

My father is a retired police officer, so my beliefs about the challenges and pressures law enforcement members are faced with each day was certainly confirmed. They are expected to make split second decisions that can alter their lives, their families lives, and the lives of the people they are tasked with protecting.

7. *What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?*

The perspective of the police officer who shot and killed Khalil was missing from the book, Including the perspective of the police officer could have added further depth to the story by exploring their mindset, training, biases, and other factors that may have contributed to the tragic event.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?

The book encouraged me to speak with my father, a former police officer, about his experiences in the field and events that he was involved in and/or witness to.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

Young adults who are passionate about social justice and civil rights issues would enjoy this book. Also, any young adult who enjoys contemporary fiction as the story deals with issues that are relevant to adolescents, including identity, friendship, and finding one's voice.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

A good addition to the Race & Ethnicity category of the Perspectives Bibliography that I have read and enjoyed is *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. The book alternates between the perspectives of two teenagers: Rashad, who is unjustly beaten by a police officer, and Quinn, who witnesses the incident. This book also explores racism, privilege, and the power of speaking out against injustice.