

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Hate U Give* follows a 16-year-old girl named Starr, who grew up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood and now attends a suburban prep school. After she witnesses a police officer shoot her unarmed best friend, she tries to speak her truth as her existence in two very different worlds becomes a challenge.

— *Ebony Magazine*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angie Thomas was born, raised, and still resides in Jackson, Mississippi. She is a former teen rapper whose greatest accomplishment was having an article about her in *Right On!* magazine. She holds a BFA in creative writing. *The Hate U Give* is her first novel. You can find her online at [www.angiethomas.com](http://www.angiethomas.com).

## ABOUT THE K-STATE BOOK NETWORK (KSBN)

Our motto is "A campus on the same page." KSBN is designed to provide a common experience to help you, as a first year student, transition from high school to college, grow academically and socially, and share something with all other first year students.

Transitioning from high school to college can be a challenge. The purpose of the K-State First program and KSBN is to help that transition by providing guided academic and social activities centered on a common book. It also sends the message that people in college read books, even ones that are not in your area of study, and that college is fun.

Students work together to learn new things about the book, related themes, K-State and the surrounding community. It can be a great way to find common ground and start a conversation both inside and outside the classroom.

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KSBN, the Student Government Association (SGA), and the K-State campus overwhelmingly selected *The Hate U Give* to be our 2018 common book. This best-selling and award-winning book addresses issues we face locally and nationwide.

KSBN is committed to diversity and inclusion, and we are pleased to be partnering with #KSUnite to help engage students in conversations about intercultural learning and civil discourse.

Our programming partners include the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs, the Black Student Union, K-State Libraries, the K-State Police Department, and the Riley County Police Department.

Do you have questions about *The Hate U Give*? Visit [www.k-state.edu/ksbn](http://www.k-state.edu/ksbn) or email [ksbn@k-state.edu](mailto:ksbn@k-state.edu) if you would like additional resources.



# 2018



## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This reading guide provides a starting point as you read through Angie Thomas's novel, *The Hate U Give*. Consider the questions and themes provided here as you explore the book. Doing so will help prepare you for the discussions ahead in your classes, with your first-year peers, and with members of the K-State community when you join us in the fall!



## KEY THEMES

Which of these themes most interests you? How could you explore the themes further and connect them to your own experiences?

### Education

The High School Experience ~ Beyond the Classroom ~ Private and Public Education

### Family

Parent/Child Relationships ~ Extended Family ~ Parenting During Incarceration

### Intersectionality

Code Switching ~ Intersections of Race, Social Class, and Gender Identities

### Community Building

Community Policing ~ Activism ~ Urban and Suburban Communities

### Civil Discourse

Protest ~ Social Media ~ Social Justice

### Pop Culture

'90s Culture ~ *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* ~ Music ~ Tupac ~ Fashion

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does the author create sympathy for Khalil, and how does that perspective aid the plot of the story?

One of the themes in Thomas' novel is "voice as a weapon for change." Starr is encouraged to speak out and use her voice to fight for Khalil and for justice. What encourages Starr to speak? What keeps her silent? In the end, why does Starr feel like it is important for her to use her voice in the future and to "never be quiet" again?

Starr talks about how her parents told her what to do and how to act if a police officer pulls her over. Why do you think it was necessary for them to have this conversation? Have your parents ever had a similar conversation with you?

When the news of Khalil's death spreads, Starr's neighborhood explodes into a "warzone." What are similar situations that have happened in our reality?

How does the book endorse or challenge the American Dream?

## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

### Critical Thinking

Consider new and different ideas, values, and concepts introduced by the book and the discussion of it

### Communication

Express your own understandings of the book in respectful dialogue and listen with appreciation to the perspectives and interpretations of others

### Community Building

Interact effectively with others in activities and discussions built around the book and the issues it raises

### Application of Learning

Use what you learned from the book in other settings, both in the classroom and more broadly in the university community