



TEEN SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

## *The Hate U Give* By Angie Thomas Reviewed by Marissa Kesse

**Name:** Marissa Kesse

**Grade:** 10

**Book Title:** The Hate U Give

**Author:** Angie Thomas

**Number of Pages:** 444

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 5/5

### **Character List:**

- **Seven:** Seven, named after the number of perfection, does not putter around when it comes to the subject of his sisters. He makes it his duty to protect all the susceptible women in his life no matter what, but often times this clouds his judgement of what may be best for him and his future. Seven is one of the few fortunate black men in his community who make it to the age of eighteen, and even luckier to graduate from high school. He is one of the few who have the chance to go to a good college, or, for that matter, any college at all.
- **Starr Carter:** Sixteen year old, sneakerhead basketball star, Starr lives in what many call "the hood," but attends school at the white suburban preparatory school. With the sudden and unruly death of her childhood best friend Khalil, her neighborhood turns into utter chaos and it is up to her and her family to keep it together but what does that mean? How many tough, brave decisions must Starr make to protect her people and, most importantly, her childhood best friend and his legacy?
- **King:** Starr and Seven's father has definitely had his share of unfortunate mistakes. He used to be a King Lord, one of the men who run the hood controlling everybody and everything. In order to get out of the game, he had to forfeit himself and go to jail when Starr was only six, and even that was considered a gift to him because usually if a man attempts to escape he is killed. He was released three years later and ever since has done his utmost best to settle into the role of being Starr's father, and is doing a pretty good job at it although they do run over some bumpy roads. He refuses to leave the hood behind, because he thinks the only way to bring about change is from within.
- **Khalil:** Sixteen year old Kahlil shows up to a party, as he normally would. When he gets inside, he is ecstatic to see his old best friend and basically his sister from another mother. Little does he know he is about to capture his last few memories, thankfully with his first love and best friend no matter what. Khalil's mother is a crackhead, his grandmother has cancer, and he is accused of being a thug when all he wanted to do was keep his family together.
- **Momma:** Momma, Starr's mother, comes from a tough childhood, but with the help of her cousin Carlos, she gets by. Then, she has another setback when the man she's with goes to jail, leaving her with three children to care for by herself. All she wants is the absolute best for her babies and nothing will stop her from making sure they are always well taken care of.

**Review:**

When Starr Carter, a sixteen year old African American girl who lives in a poor black neighborhood but attends school in the fancy white preparatory school, is at a party with people she has not talked to for ages, her night suddenly turns from bad to atrocious when a series of unfortunate events began to unravel. Khalil, her childhood best friend, is now dead at the hands of an unashamed cop, and has become a national headline. Some are calling him a “thug” and even accusing him of being a drug dealer. Starr is the only one who can contradict these false accusations and reveal what truly happened that night. She is unsure whether this is a smart idea, considering the mass amount of media attention across the country. The police forces’ evident lack of interest in investigating the true events of that night morphs Starr’s neighborhood into a war zone of protesters, who protest in every which way and do not plan on backing down.

This amazing, invigorating book, filled with such vivid imagery, is a book for everyone. It shows you the side of society many people may not understand, and author Angie Thomas’s choice of words makes you feel as though you are actually Starr going through the motions. This was an eye opener to things and ideas I’d never even thought about and I believe this book was a much needed insight into today’s continuous battle against police brutality, systematic racism, and white supremacy in the US. Not only would I recommend this book to all able to read, but I would strongly recommend this book be converted into a movie, to accommodate those who do not have the luxury of being able to read. *The Hate U Give* should be read by students 13+, the age at which many children begin learning about societal problems. This book can grab the hearts of the older generation as well as the younger generation, and I strongly recommend you read it!