Reading With Relevance
Building Independent Readers and Thinkers

A Teacher’s Guide for
The Hate U Give

A novel by Angie Thomas

Recommended for:
Grade Levels
9th-12th
A tool to inspire change

This literacy curriculum is constructed around a content-rich novel that builds students' literacy skills and supports their character development and self-confidence. Students are motivated to read because they relate to the strong, diverse, and resilient characters featured in our selected novels and because each session gives them the opportunity to connect what they've read to their own lives.

Developed, field-tested, and refined in our own tutoring and mentoring programs, this Common Core Standards curriculum has inspired persistently low-performing students to engage with literature, make meaning in their lives, and improve their English language arts skills. Now, Reading with Relevance is available to help you dig deep into the social, emotional, and academic needs of your students, whether in your classroom, after-school program, or youth development agency!

Why The Hate U Give?

This novel tells the story of Starr Carter — a brave, intelligent, and resilient young woman who witnesses her best friend's death at the hands of a police officer. This book traces Starr's story, and it is also reflects a national conversation about state-sanctioned violence and the Black Lives Matter movement. We chose this book for its careful exploration of powerful social and emotional themes: oppression, injustice, racism, activism, voice, resilience, and community. This curriculum will inspire students to build connections between Starr's story and their own experiences with injustice.

This teacher's guide includes:

- A facilitator's guide with tips and resources for implementing the curriculum.
- A map of Common Core Standards addressed through this program.
- Fifteen individual lesson plans, including vocabulary, discussion questions, journal prompts, extension activities, and all handouts.
- Two assessments to monitor student progress throughout the program.
- Regular checkpoints to help teachers assess their students' progress on ELA standards.
- A culminating essay-writing unit.
- An appendix with additional teaching resources and activities to continue exploring this novel.
Session 11

Today’s Theme

Today’s theme is taking action. Despite the very real threats to her life, family, and community, and despite the pressures she feels about the consequences of speaking out, Starr does decide to use her voice to stand up for herself, Khalil, and Garden Heights when she testifies in front of the grand jury. In her path to this moment, Starr has experienced feeling lost in her grief over Khalil and guilty about not doing more for him, being afraid of the consequences speaking up might have for her and her family, and knowing that, as the only witness, she is the only one who can use her voice to help Khalil achieve justice. How does this mix of feelings lead her to become an activist? Can your students relate to Starr’s evolution? When is a time in their own lives when they’ve come to realize that it’s time to step up and contribute to making a difference?

Session 10 Recap

In the previous session, Starr gives a television interview about what happened the night Khalil was killed. Even though she feels like she wants to vomit, she stays calm and poised on camera. That weekend, Starr attends Junior Prom with Chris. At first, Chris is distant and cold with her, and Starr responds by ignoring him. They finally have a fight in the car. Chris reveals that he knows Starr is the witness who gave the television interview, and shares that he is upset that she kept this from him. Starr comes to understand that she has not been sharing all of herself with Chris, and she tearfully tells Chris about Natasha and Khalil.
During Reading

**Uncle Tom** (pg. 323): A slang term for an African American who has sold out their community. This phrase is from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Discussion Questions

- Why does Maverick believe people who live in the suburbs are “less black” than people who live in the city? Why are terms like “less black” problematic?

- Why does Seven say he’s going to Central Community? Do you think this is the right choice?

- What about the Carter family’s dynamic is revealed as they watch the basketball game together?

- Who do you think shot at Starr’s house? If you were Starr, would you still testify after experiencing this kind of violent attack?

- Why does Maverick have Starr quote the Black Panthers and Malcolm X? What is the significance of the two points he has her repeat?

- What is your opinion about the very different ideas that Maverick and Uncle Carlos have about protecting Starr?

- Starr describes Garden Heights as a “family.” In what ways is this true?

- How do you think it feels for Starr to have to keep recounting the story of Khalil’s death?

- Make a prediction. What do you think will happen in the grand jury case? Will Officer One-Fifteen be convicted?
Guiding Philosophy

The Ten-Point Program is a guiding philosophy that Maverick passes down to his children. When Starr decides she doesn’t want to testify, Maverick uses the Points to remind her of the values he has taught her to live by. A guiding philosophy explains your values, determines how you live your life, and gives you hope; these philosophies can be found in religion, politics, or intellectual theories.

What is your guiding philosophy?
- What people or institutions in your life have helped shape your values and actions?
- Write about a time when your guiding philosophy made an impact on your life. What happened?
- How do the Points guide Starr’s life? How do they guide this book?

Father Figures

Starr has two strong, caring, and consistent men in her family — Maverick and Uncle Carlos — who both do everything they can to provide her with love, support, and protection. While the two men have a lot in common, they also have very different perspectives on life and community.

How do these two men show up for Starr, and demonstrate that they have her best interests at heart?
- How are Maverick and Uncle Carlos similar? What about their values, goals, and backgrounds do they have in common?
- In what ways are the two men different? What tensions exist in their perspectives around the police, the Garden Heights community, and even about protecting Starr?
- How do they find common ground? What do you think about this?

Extension Activity

Materials:
- Analyzing the Ten Points Handout

When activists begin a social movement, they often write down their guiding principles, and craft a mission statement to guide their work. The Black Panthers’ Ten-Point Program is an example of this kind of founding statement, and one that remains a powerful set of values for Maverick and his family. Support your students to read through the Ten-Point Program’s full text, analyzing the points and making meaning of their relevance today.
The Black Panther Party’s Ten-Point Program

What We Want Now!

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.
2. We want full employment for our people.
3. We want an end to the robbery by the capitalists of our Black and oppressed communities.
4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.
5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society.
6. We want all Black men to be exempt from military service.
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people.
8. We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.
9. We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.
10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, and peace.

Why do you think Maverick teaches his children to memorize these points?

What in these points do you find is still relevant today?

What surprised you about this document?

What should be added to this list in order to achieve racial justice today?

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Moving Forward Institute is a nonprofit publisher of social justice educational materials. The organization was created by the founders and staff of Moving Forward Education, a multi-generational tutoring and mentoring organization aimed at fostering academic and emotional success for underserved students in California. Since our founding in 2003, MFE has provided tutoring and mentoring services to thousands of students and has trained hundreds of young adults to enter careers in the educational field. This reading curriculum was developed by our leadership team and its advisory group, including credentialed teachers and college professors. This program has been successfully facilitated throughout California by achieving powerful and measurable results for students and schools. To learn more about our organization, or our research and data, please contact us today.

Our Purpose
At Moving Forward Institute, we know that students can be successful learners when their social and emotional needs are met.

We empower educators to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of their students by using culturally-relevant and gender-responsive reading curricula.

Training and Professional Development Services
While lesson plans are designed to be easily facilitated by classroom teachers and after-school staff alike, our in-person training and professional development services will ensure fully effective implementation of the literacy curricula.

Additionally, we offer technical support, classroom observation, and program evaluation services to help your program be successful. Contact us for more information about these services!

Contact Us
Contact us today to learn more about how the Moving Forward Institute can support your students and staff!

If your students liked The Hate U Give...

...they might love some of our other book selections! We suggest that you check out The Sun is Also a Star, March, or The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Please visit our website today to browse our full selection of socially and emotionally rich novel-based curricula!