



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

1. As Starr and Khalil listen to Tupac, Khalil explains what Tupac said "Thug Life" meant. Discuss the meaning of the term "Thug Life" as an acronym and why the author might have chosen part of this as the title of the book. In what ways do you see this in society today?
2. Chapter 2 begins with Starr flashing back to two talks her parents had with her when she was young. One was about sex ("the usual birds and bees"). The second was about what precautions to take when encountering a police officer. Have you had a similar conversation about what to do when stopped by the police?
3. The author frequently uses motifs of silence and voice throughout the book. Find instances in the book where silence or voice and speech are noted and talk about the author's possible intentions for emphasizing these motifs.
4. How and why does the neighborhood react to the grand jury's decision? How does Starr use her voice as a weapon, and why does she feel that it is vital that she does? Refer back to "Thug Life" and discuss how the acronym resonates in this chapter.
5. Chris and Starr have a breakthrough in their relationship—Starr admits to him that she was in the car with Khalil and shares the memories of Natasha's murder. Discuss why Starr's admission and releasing of this burden to Chris is significant. Explore the practice of "code switching" and discuss how you might code switch in different circumstances in your own life.
6. Once news of Khalil's shooting spreads across the neighborhood, unrest arises: "Sirens wail outside. The news shows three patrol cars that have been set ablaze at the police precinct.... A gas station near the freeway gets looted.... My neighborhood is a war zone." Respond to this development and describe some parallels to current events.
7. Starr pledges to "never be quiet". After reading this book, how can you use your voice to promote and advance social justice? Reflect on how you and your community discuss and address inequality.

The above questions were taken from "litlovers.com" to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Angie Thomas was born, raised, and still lives in Jackson, Mississippi. A former teen rapper, she holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University. Her award-winning, acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, is a #1 New York Times bestseller and major motion picture from Fox 2000, starring Amandla Stenberg and directed by George Tillman, Jr. Her second novel, *On the Come Up*, is a #1 NYT bestseller as well, and a film is in development with Paramount Pictures with Angie acting as a producer. In 2020, Angie released *Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal to Writing Your Truth* as a tool to help aspiring writers tell their stories. In 2021, Angie will return to the world of Garden Heights with *Concrete Rose*, a prequel to *The Hate U Give* that focuses on seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter.

From author website: <https://angiethomas.com/>

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