

Summer Reading Guide for *The Hate U Give*

Chapter-by-Chapter Character, Location, and Terminology Guides

Below is a collection of characters, location names, and terms or important phrases that appear in the 26 chapters of *The Hate U Give*. Reading with an eye towards recognizing and identifying them should help with comprehension. You may wish to provide “definitions” as you go, although your completion of this guide is not mandatory.

Chapter 1

- **Big D’s Party:**
- **Garden Heights:**
- **Starr Carter:**
- **Kenya:**
- **Seven:**
- **Khalil:**
- **King Lords:**
- **“The Hood Trio”**

Chapter 2

- **The Two Talks:**
- **One-Fifteen:**

Chapter 3

- **Daddy/Maverick/Big Mav:**
- **Momma/Lisa:**
- **“Munch”:**

- **Sekani:**
- **King:**
- **Iesha:**
- **Lyric:**
- **Brickz:**
- **Carter's Grocery:**
- **Mr. Reuben:**

Chapter Four

- **Brian:**
- **Uncle Carlos:**
- **Andre:**
- **Ms. Rosalle:**
- **Ms. Tammy:**
- **Ms. Brenda:**

Chapter Five

- **"Williamson Starr":**
- **Maya:**
- **Hailey:**
- **Luke:**

- **Jess:**
- **Chris:**
- ***Fresh Prince:***

Chapter Six

- **Detectives Gomez and Wilkes:**

Chapter Seven

- **“That Drug Dealer”:**

Chapter Eight

- **Christ Temple:**
- **Pastor Eldridge:**
- **April O’frah and Just Us for Justice:**
- **The Folded Grey Bandana:**

Chapter Nine

- **“The Witness”:**
- **Aunt Patty:**
- **Nana:**

Chapter Ten

- **T-H-U-G-L-I-F-E:**
- **Devante and Dalvin:**
- **Adonis Carter:**

Chapter Eleven

- **“Justice for Khalil”:**
- **Gray Boys:**
- **Mr. Lewis:**
- **“Something To Live For, Something To Die For”:**

Chapter Twelve

- **“The Khalil I Knew”:**
- **Hairbrush:**

Chapter Thirteen

- **“Five Gs”:**

Chapter Fourteen

- **One-Fifteen, Sr.:**
- **“The Minority Alliance”:**

Chapter Fifteen

- **Karen Monroe, D.A.:**
- **“Poor Thing”:**

Chapter Sixteen

- **“All Right Now, Starr”:**
- **Diane Carey:**

- **“Dry Snitching”:**

Chapter Seventeen

- **Mr. Silent**

Chapter Eighteen

- **Brook Falls:**
- **Central Community:**
- **Points One and Seven:**
- **Malcolm’s Objective:**
- **Goon and the Cedar Grove King Lords:**

Chapter Nineteen

- **Grand Jury:**

Chapter Twenty

- **Khalil’s Thugshot:**
- **“Parentish”:**

Chapter Twenty-One

- **Seven’s Birthday Party:**

Chapter Twenty-Two

- **“Beautiful. Amazing. Starr.”:**
- **The Bryants:**
- **The Decision**

Chapter Twenty-Three

- **“Anger loves company”:**

Chapter Twenty-Four

- **“A hairbrush is not a gun!”:**
- **“Use your weapon”:**
- **Black-owned:**

Chapter Twenty-Five

- **“Daddy snitched”:**

Chapter Twenty-Six

- **“I’m sorry”:**
- **“Our brother”**
- **“It’s also about Oscar. Aiyana. Trayvon. Rekia...”:**

Reading Questions

Below are fifteen reading questions for you to consider regarding *The Hate U Give*. The first five are chapter specific and may help you to engage with the text as you make your way through it. The next five are overall questions for you to think about when you have finished reading the novel. The final five are introspective questions that you can ponder before, during, or after engaging with the narrative.

Chapter Specific Questions

1. At the beginning of Chapter 5, we are introduced to “Williamson Starr.” Who is she and how is she different from “Garden Heights Starr”? Which one is the “real” Starr?
2. Upon seeing Khalil’s mother, Ms. Brenda, at the end of Chapter 5, Starr gets angry, telling her own mother, “you know how many times [Khalil] cried about her? Birthdays, Christmases, all that? Why does she get to cry?” (91). Starr’s mother though rebukes her daughter sharply, saying, “that wasn’t some li’l friend of hers. That was her son! She carried that boy, birthed that boy. And you have no right to judge her” (91). Why do you think Starr’s mom reacts so strongly? Does Starr have a point? If so, why do you think Starr comes to quickly “realize [her] mom is right” (91)?
3. In Chapter 9, upon seeing the protesters marching for the first time, Starr’s mother tells her daughter that “none of this is [her] fault” and that she “did everything right” (152). Starr responds by asking, rhetorically, “sometimes right’s not good enough, huh?” to which her mom tells her a story about how Starr wasn’t breathing when she was born (152). Why do you think she chooses this moment to tell that story?
4. In Chapter 10, Maverick gives Devonte -- at this point in the story, a gang member looking to turn his life around -- a job and a place to stay. Upon finding out that a member of the King Lords is staying under their roof though, Maverick’s wife Lisa is outraged and believes Mav is putting their family in unnecessary danger. Is Maverick right to take Devonte in, or should have put his family’s safety before charity and loyalty to the community?
5. When he is first introduced, Mr. Lewis seems little more than the neighborhood curmudgeon. In Chapter 11, he seems even suicidal when he snitches on King Lord in a television interview. In a subsequent argument with Maverick though, Lewis reveals that he not only lost a leg in war (probably Vietnam), but also that he was once knifed from his back to his stomach simply because he “drank from the [white] fountain” and so he is not afraid of what anyone might do to him now. He also berates Maverick, calling him,

essentially, a hypocrite for “claiming [he] trying to change stuff, but still following all’a that ‘don’t snitch mess” (190). What do we think of Mr. Lewis after this chapter? Is he still just a cranky old man, or is there more to him than that?

Overall Questions

1. There are many moments when Starr remains silent early on in the novel, sometimes frustratingly so. As the novel progresses though, she finds her literal and figurative voice. Considering one specific moment of “silence” and one moment of “voice,” how does Starr find her voice and what does this say about her character arc over the course of the narrative?
2. *The Hate U Give* presents its reader with many moments of injustice as well as a few moments of justice. Where did you see injustice play out most egregiously in the novel? Where did you see justice served? How did your own perception of justice and injustice change over the course of reading the novel?
3. Throughout the novel, Starr refers to police officer Brian Cruise as “One-Fifteen,” which is his badge number. Why do you think she does this? Does her attitude toward police officers change over the course of the book? How does her uncle play into this change? How do you feel police -- and the legal system -- are portrayed in the novel?
4. Once the jury decision about Khalil is made public, unrest in Garden Heights begins: “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” (136–139). There’s a long history of this happening, from the Watts protests in the 1960s to the protest after the Rodney King verdict in 1992 to protests after the death of Mike Brown in 2015 in Ferguson, starting the “Black Lives Matter” campaign, to, of course, recent reaction to the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. Why does the neighborhood react this way? Is it understandable? At what point do things “get out of hand” and why?
5. There are a lot of great characters in *The Hate U Give*. Who is your favorite character and why?

Introspective Questions

1. Starr tells us that “Pastor Eldridge once preached that, ‘Faith isn’t just believing, but taking steps towards that belief” (210). What do you think Pastor Eldridge might have

meant by that? What do you have faith in? Do you feel the Pastor's words resonate with you?

2. Talking to Maya about their (former) friend Hailey, Starr says, "the problem [is that]...we let people say stuff, and they say it so much that it becomes okay for them and normal for us. What's the point in having a voice if you're going to be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?" (251). Do you feel that Starr is right here? Have you ever found yourself in a moment when speaking up against a friend was hard and perhaps you chose not to? Or have you ever found yourself in a moment when speaking up against a friend was hard but you did it anyway?
3. Starr's mother tells her that "bravery doesn't mean you're not scared...it means you go on even though you're scared" (331). Is she right? Have you ever felt a moment of true bravery as Starr's mom defines it?
4. Throughout the book, Starr talks about how she is different "versions" of herself. She's one person in Garden Heights and a different person at her school, Williamson Prep. This is often called "code-switching," when a person feels they must speak and act differently in one social situation than in another (see below for a fuller definition). Is this something you can relate to? Are there instances in which you feel you have to "code-switch" to fit in? How do you do that? Does it make you feel less authentic as a result?
5. In chapter 9, Starr's mom is telling her a story and says, "Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right" (154). Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

Terms and Historical Context

The following list are some terms and bits of historical context that are either directly or tangentially alluded to in *The Hate U Give*. Reviewing them may help you to better understand these allusions when they crop up.

- **Social Justice:** The campaign for fair and just relations between the individual citizen and society at large, as measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and social privileges. In the current global grassroots movements for social justice, the emphasis has been the breaking of barriers for social mobility based on race, class, nationality, and sexuality.
- **Code Switching:** The practice of alternating between two or more means of expression in conversation based on the environment in which one is expressing him or herself to the person to whom s/he is speaking. This can mean alternating between languages (i.e. speaking Spanish at home and English at school, or speaking “Spanglish” with friends) or alternating between dialects, styles, and/or registers (i.e. using slang with friends and more formal speech with parents or teachers).
- **“I Can’t Breathe”:** On July 17, 2014, NYPD officers approached Eric Garner on suspicion of selling single cigarettes from packs without tax stamps. An officer then put him in a headlock or chokehold for about 15 to 19 seconds while arresting him. NYPD policy prohibits the use of chokeholds. After Garner lost consciousness, officers turned him onto his side to ease his breathing. Garner remained lying on the sidewalk for seven minutes while the officers waited for an ambulance to arrive. The officers and emergency medical technicians did not perform (CPR) on Garner at the scene. Eric Garner died an hour later in Staten Island, New York City. The officer denied choking Garner, but the New York City Medical Examiner's Office report stated "Cause of Death: Compression of neck (choke hold), compression of chest and prone positioning during physical restraint by police." The coroner ruled the death a homicide, but a grand jury refused to indict the officer. The filming of the incident brought police brutality into wider public awareness and led to numerous protests, many connected to the Black Lives Matter movement. Protesters have made use of Garner's last words, "I can't breathe" (which he said 11 times), as a slogan and chant against police brutality since Garner's death and Officer Pantaleo's grand jury decision. By December 28, at least 50 protests in support of Garner had occurred globally, and many other Black Lives Matter-related demonstrations had occurred.
- **The Huxtables:** The Huxtable family was the focus of *The Cosby Show*, a wildly-popular American sitcom which ran for eight seasons in the 1980s. Given that the Huxtables were an upper-class African-American family living in Brooklyn, they became a pop culture touchpoint and helped pave the way for a larger variety of shows in the 90s with a

predominantly black cast, such as *In Living Color*, *Different World*, and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* (a show Starr and Chris refer to frequently in *The Hate U Give*).

- **Malcolm X:** Malcolm X was an African American leader in the civil rights movement, minister and supporter of black nationalism. He urged his fellow black Americans to protect themselves against white aggression “by any means necessary,” a stance that often put him at odds with the nonviolent teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. His charisma and oratory skills helped him achieve national prominence in the Nation of Islam, a belief system that merged Islam with black nationalism. After Malcolm X’s assassination in 1965, his bestselling book, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, popularized his ideas and inspired the Black Power movement (see below).
- **Black Panthers:** The Black Panthers, also known as the Black Panther Party, was a political organization founded in 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale to challenge police brutality against the African-American community. Dressed in black berets and black leather jackets, the Black Panthers organized armed citizen patrols of Oakland and other U.S. cities. At its peak in 1968, the Black Panther Party had roughly 2,000 members. The organization later declined as a result of internal tensions, deadly shootouts and FBI counterintelligence activities aimed at weakening the organization. Newton and Seale created the Ten-Point Program which served as a guide for the Black Panther Party’s ideals and ways of operation. They are:
 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.
- **Cultural Appropriation:** The unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more

dominant people or society. Simply put, it is when someone adopts something from a culture that is not his or her own, such as a hairstyle, a piece of clothing, or a manner of speaking. Unlike cultural exchange, in which there is a mutual interchange, appropriation refers to a “particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group.”

- **Double-consciousness:** A concept that W.E.B. Du Bois first explored in his 1903 publication, “The Souls of Black Folk,” Double consciousness describes the individual sensation of feeling as though one’s identity is divided into several parts, making it difficult or impossible to have one unified identity. Du Bois spoke of this within the context of race relations in the United States. He asserted that since American blacks have lived in a society that has historically repressed and devalued them that it has become difficult for them to unify their black identity with their American identity. Double consciousness forces blacks to not only view themselves from their own unique perspective, but to also view themselves as they might be perceived by the white world around them. Du Bois wrote about having a “sense of looking at one’s self through the eyes of others.”
- **Grand Jury:** A group of 23 citizens randomly chosen to help a prosecutor decide whether to file charges against a suspect in a crime. Essentially, prosecutors use grand jury proceedings as test-runs for trials, and take a grand jury's perception of the evidence seriously. However, if the prosecutor strongly disagrees with a grand jury, he or she may ignore the decision. Grand jurors are expected to serve anywhere from a month to a year on average. In most cases it’s a few months, and they sit a few days a week. Grand juries hear cases from prosecutors all day long, and all different types of criminal cases. The grand jury physically sits in a college lecture type of room in the same building as the prosecutor’s office. There is no judge present, just court officers and grand jury clerks. Jurors have the power to view almost any kind of evidence they wish and to interrogate anyone they like. The procedure for grand jury hearings is relaxed to allow the jurors as much flexibility as possible. Typically, the parties that appear before a grand jury do not have attorneys, and the rules of evidence permit much more evidence than is allowed at a criminal trial. Grand jury proceedings are held in strict confidence to encourage witnesses to speak freely, as well as to protect the suspect if the grand jury decides not to bring charges. A grand jury does not have to be unanimous to issue an indictment, but two-thirds or three-quarters of the individual grand jurors must agree.