

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



**Humaira, age 18**

***You'd better believe the hype for this book. 'The Hate U Give' is everything.***

*I'm blown away by this book. I feel so privileged to have gotten an early copy and read such a wonderful book that everyone should read. Needs to read. I loved everything about this book for pop culture references to the way characters spoke. **This book is going to be deemed to be a classic.** Just read it and you'll know.*

**Rose, age 17**

***'The Hate U Give' is a modern, relevant young adult book about a***

*young black girl's life.*

*Starr lives two very different lives, one in the suburbs and another at her posh high school. When she sees her childhood friend shot she re-evaluates her trust and friendships. **An inspiring book that showed that every life matters.***  
5 Stars \*\*\*\*\*

**Georgia Walters, age 16**

***If you read one book this year, make it this one. It's unflinchingly powerful and brave. The narrative is compelling and unforgettable - this book will stay with me for a long time.***

*The story is heart-breaking, and might be difficult for some to read as it touches on so many relevant themes today - but that's why this book has to be read.*

*The narrative is compelling, and I grew to really love Starr throughout the novel - it's told in her very realistic voice. She's torn between what to do, remaining silent about what she witnessed or raising her voice. She's also torn between the two different 'lives' she's living: her hometown and the mostly-white populated private school she attends. Starr lives with so much internal conflict, and I really empathised with her because I can imagine so many people are in the same situations.*

*I became really attached to Starr's family, and Thomas writes so much detail into each character that I can't stop thinking about them. Starr's father is one particularly well developed, unforgettable character - an ex-convict who found his way out of gang culture, determined to protect his children and also build up his life with the store he now owns. There's something about all of the characters that's incredibly inspiring - their stories stay with you for a long time.*

*The best thing about 'The Hate U Give' is how unapologetic and real it is. I'm really excited to see how it translates into a visual story, too!*

### **Talia Jacobs, age 15**

***'The Hate U Give' is such an interesting book with elements tackling racism, living with poverty, identity, family and school life. I absolutely loved it and really recommend it!***

*It's a spectacular book that shows you exactly what prejudice looks like in the 21st century and how, dependent on race, people are expected to act and live in a certain way. Perfect for readers looking for an original plot and what it's like to live two different lives (both in the heart of prejudice) and what happens when they mix.*

*The characters in this novel have all been built up so precisely and consistently that they almost seem real. I can guarantee that you will find at least one character you can relate to.*

*Starr, the main character, struggles with keeping the two different parts of her life separate- the poor neighbourhood she was born and raised in which is renowned for being crawling with drug dealers, and the posh high school she goes to where she is one of the only black students. In both parts of her she feels like an outsider.*

*The plot of this book is fast and enticing and you will be hooked. This novel also has something that will appeal to everyone- guilt, identity, hints of romance, a tricky family life, media coverage, police questionings, living in poverty, tackling racism, even some beautiful life lessons.*

*Parts of this book made me laugh out loud while other parts were extremely heart-breaking. I seriously recommend reading this book. It really shows you how big of an issue racism is and it has so many elements that make it absolutely brilliant. I couldn't put this book down- it was spectacular. Please read this book!*

**Jenny Duffy, age 23**

*“What’s the point of having a voice if you’re gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn’t be?”*

*Sixteen-year-old Starr is caught between two worlds, the poor neighbourhood she calls home and the posh high school in which she feels like an outsider. She isn't quite sure which Starr is the 'real' Starr, and how to balance the different aspects of her life. When she witnesses a police officer shooting her unarmed friend Khalil, her world is shattered. If she speaks out she could put herself and her family in danger; but if she doesn't, how will this prejudice ever change? Her voice is her weapon, but will she use it?*

***Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a gripping and powerful read that I think should be essential reading for teenagers.***

*‘The Hate U Give’ is a striking look at racial prejudice in the 21st century. Starr’s struggle to get justice for Khalil is moving and heart wrenching. Starr is a brilliant heroine, she is real and conflicted and her voice is very strong. Thomas really conveys the trauma Starr is going through after the loss of Khalil, and the impact of another death when she was a child. The family dynamics are also very well done and the dialogue is snappy and on point. This is a brilliant book, and I can’t wait for it to be out on the shelves. It’s going to be big.*

**Megan Abbott, age 18**

***Compellingly beautiful. I applaud Angie Thomas for this beautifully crafted young adult novel about what prejudice looks like in the 21st century.*** *At one point I was literally in tears. The protagonist Starr, lives in two conflicting worlds: the posh school and the poor neighbourhood where she grew up. When she experiences the tragedy of watching her friend unjustly*

*being murdered at the hand of a police officer, her two worlds start to collide. This book has opened my eyes to the frequent injustices in our society, but also the importance of community, family and friendship, which give us the reasons to fight. It gives a powerful insight into people's experiences rather than just the sometimes false portrayal that the media conveys, which adds a great deal of realism. I predict now that is going to be the next bestseller because it is that breath-taking. I can't reiterate enough how amazing this book is and how everyone should definitely read it.*

**Izzy Read, age 16**

*When the movie rights have already been sold and the legend that is Amandla Stenberg is already cast as the lead before the book is even released, you know that it's going to be something special and boy was I not disappointed!*

***This is the book that YA has been waiting for;*** *current world issues need to be explored more to educate young people on things that matter. Racism is being discussed more through this medium but the more I look at it my bookshelf is whitewashed in terms of both characters and authors. 'The Hate U Give' reminded me to always stand what for what is right. Starr is relatable- she is scared, confused and distraught that her friend was murdered.*

*I hope people feel as though it does the Black Lives Matter movement justice, because I feel like it does.*

**Abbie Bavister, age 14**

***A powerful novel about a young girls fight for justice amongst deeply engrained prejudice.***

*I really enjoyed this book. I liked the main character Starr and the way her two worlds, the poor black neighbourhood and the posh mainly white school in the suburbs, collided with each other and how she never felt quite comfortable in either. I really got a feel for both environments and felt as though I was there and could feel the frustration about all different types of prejudice that was encountered. I liked that Starr had a white boyfriend and that it was shown that prejudice went both ways as her dad was not keen on a white boyfriend initially. It was also interesting that the headmaster of the posh mainly white school was black, I feel that these characters helped cross the divide between races. It was a definite eye opener into the challenges that certain society's face.*

**Rebekah Marsh, age 14**

***The book touches on racism, love, family and friendship all in a completely amazing storyline with characters that provoke tears, laughter and so many more emotions.***

*I am not an individual who likes to read books commenting on political issues such as the racism in this one. However, since reading this one I shall intend to read many more. The magnificent author has clearly put a lot of thought into plotting a racially aware story line that still fits the teenage ideal.*

**Khadijah Ahmed**

***'The Hate U Give' evokes the same feelings sparked from the documentaries and news articles about police brutality: anger, incredulity, heartbreak, despair. And yet, somehow, hope in the light at the end of the tunnel.***

*Everything that happens in this book is so close to reality that it reads almost like an autobiography. You can see the faces, voices and lives of real people reflected through Starr's story. Likewise, the humour is threaded through the story as seamlessly as a well-tailored tweed jacket. Priceless.*

*However a point of criticism for me would be Starr's relationship with Chris. They were just another couple that'd stepped right out of the Romantic YA Relationships Clinic. Even the interracial aspect didn't save it from the clutches of the Cliché Demon. The way they communicate, solve problems, and show each other affection is akin to everything I've read before. It was an unnecessary downplay of quality reading in an otherwise skilfully written, thought-provoking and original story.*