

# Pacific Lutheran University

"Absolutely riveting!"  
JASON REYNOLDS

"Stunning."  
JOHN GREEN

## Common Reading Discussion Guide 2020

Featuring:

*The Hate You Give*

Written by:

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**ANGIE THOMAS**

As you read *The Hate You Give*, we encourage you to use this reading guide to assist you in thinking deeply and critically about the book. This will help you prepare for the small group discussions with you Writing 101 faculty member and peers.

To be prepared and organized for class you should **take notes** of ideas, concepts, and themes of particular interest to you, **including noting page numbers** so that you can easily locate information to **support your claim/opinion** during the discussions.

Please consider the following questions and prompts as you start and continue to read the book.

1. "The hate you give" is a term coined by Tupac Shakur in his music and then referenced by Khalil (p. 17) and Maverick (p. 167) in their conversations with Starr. What does that phrase mean to Khalil and Maverick? In what ways does "the hate you give" provide Starr with knowledge, power, and strength throughout the book?

2. One of the prominent arguments Thomas makes in the book is that words, specifically our voices, are power. One example includes how White people describe Khalil as a "gang member" or "drug dealer" to legitimize the violence done to him by the White police officer. Another example is how Starr comes to find and use her voice to further justice for Khalil and her community. Identify 2-3 other examples in the book where language is used to dehumanize, stereotype, disempower, or conversely, to inspire or empower a person or group of people.

3. In several moments in the book, Maverick references the Black Panther Party's Ten Point Program to give his children strength in especially stressful times. Listen to the interview with Mr. Elmer Dixson and describe the ways in which the book and the interview have informed or shifted your ideas about the Black community, historically Black neighborhoods, or the Black Panther Party.

4. On page 192-194, two police officers (one White and one Black) cuff Maverick and make him lie on the ground for seemingly no reason. After Maverick is let go, Seven becomes extremely angry and starts cursing in Maverick's store. Thomas writes, "Daddy once told me there's a rage passed down to every black man from his ancestors, born the moment they couldn't stop the slave masters from hurting their families." How does this scene compare to your lived experience? How did you feel while you were reading it? Why do you think Seven, Starr, and Maverick reacted the way they did in this scene? In what ways does this scene illustrate and represent broader themes and topics Thomas surfaces throughout the book?

4. Whether it's an account of how people grieve the tragic and unjust loss of a loved one, how two young adults navigate the complexities of an inter-racial relationship in modern day America, how young adults talk about race and racism, or how we can sometimes feel trapped between two worlds that have vastly different expectations for who we can and can't be, Thomas' book deeply resonates and reflects the lived experiences of many young people. In what ways did this book resonate with you or cause you to reflect on some part of your life? Use a specific passage or two to illustrate your opinion.