

Reclaiming Our Time

Black History Month honors accomplishments that were inspired by the African-American community. This year's theme is "Reclaiming Our Time" which highlights what the African-American community has created to celebrate culture, history, and community; it is about inspiring people to think about past wrongs that were corrected. The book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas is a thought-provoking narrative filled with diversity that touches on several current issues which shows the power of the African-American community.

The book mentions several current issues. Modern day society is still very faulty even if we have fixed some problems in the past. In *The Hate U Give*, the area where the narrator, Starr, lives is not officially segregated, but there is a clear division. The African-American population mostly lives in a squalid, unsafe neighborhood while the population mostly lives in a better, wealthier neighborhood. The problems between people with different colors of skin is not as bad as the past, but people still make rash decisions based only on the color of skin and biases. Most importantly, the book tells us that society is still filled with hate and has to change. Though the book exposes society's faults, the book also demonstrates a hopeful story of change.

The book starts off with a strong female character, Starr, who is not afraid to do what is right. Other characters like Maya and Chris listen to the injustice around them and are empowered for change. This book showed us a change from bad habits. It shows us a better world where people actively acknowledge the problems of society and do the right thing. Additionally, the book includes characters with different backgrounds and ethnicities; it has an

Asian character and a large cast of African-American characters. This diversity is a not commonly found in books nowadays. *The Hate U Give* shines a rare light on diversity.

The book *The Hate U Give* is meaningful to me. I enjoyed reading a book with a female African-American protagonist set in modern times which is a rare combination to find. In so many ways, the books positive messages about standing up for what's right and diversity stuck with me. The issues in the books are things that I connect to. In so many parts of my daily life like when I read the news, I see these issues about gangs, racism, bullying, and others. The book gives me hope and empowerment against these issues. I recommend this book to all of my friends or anyone else, and I enjoyed this book a lot.

Books like the *Hate U Give* show us the power of the African-American community. Angie Thomas wrote a book that demonstrated the challenges our society is facing now. The book also shows diverse character challenging the issue with society and making things better. The book celebrates accomplishments of the African-American community and provides powerful inspiration in other people. *The Hate U Give* is an honor to the African-American community.

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