

Welcome! As a College of Charleston student, one of your first activities will be **New Student Convocation on Monday, August 20th** from 10:00-11:30am. *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, will form the basis of your small group discussion led by a faculty member at Convocation. You will also discuss the book in your FYE course and in other places so it is important that you read and think carefully about the book. Angie Thomas will be on campus October 15, 2018.

Preparing for Convocation After reading *The Hate U Give*, **CHOOSE ONE** of the options below. Consider each prompt carefully and select the one that most appeals to you. You will need to bring a hard copy of your work with your name on it to Convocation and give it to the faculty member leading your discussion. Audio or video projects (and written statement) can be submitted to thecollegereads@cofc.edu. Take some care in completing this assignment since this is your first work as a new college student. Make use of the **Reading Companion** and resources found on **The College Reads! website** (collegereads.cofc.edu).

Pathways to a Just World

The name of the organization that supports Starr in the wake of Khalil's death—Just Us for Justice—speaks to how powerful social justice movements can be when they are grounded in the experience of those most deeply affected by systemic prejudice. But the name can also be interpreted as isolating: if those who aren't as directly affected by specific forms of injustice are unable to reach across lines of race, class, gender, age, politics, vocation, sexuality, or other markers of social identity, then meaningful change might be more difficult to achieve. Select one scene in the book that you feel says something important about justice: about what justice means at that moment, about what threatens it, or about how it might be achieved. Next, in an essay of about 750 words, use this scene as a starting point to reflect upon the roles you have played, and/or that you might hope to play, in charting out pathways to a more just world.

Encountering Stereotypes of Place

The Hate U Give focuses on three different places: the predominantly black neighborhood of Garden Heights; the predominantly white, suburban prep school, Williamson, and its environs; and the diverse, middle-class community of Brook Falls. Throughout the book, Starr addresses the ease with which the whole of her neighborhood, Garden Heights, is stereotyped in venues like the evening news, which is more likely to show “the drug addicts roaming the streets, the broken-down Cedar Grove projects, gangbangers flashing signs, bodies on the sidewalks with white sheets over them.” This story told by the local news about Starr's neighborhood leads her to wonder why the people and places that are cornerstones of her neighborhood are left out: “What about Mrs. Rooks and her cakes? Or Mr. Lewis and his haircuts? Mr. Reuben? The clinic? My family? Me?” (245). Thomas crafts her narrative around places that are easily defined and stereotyped by people that don't live there or even spend much time there.

Think about the area in which you grew up and the different communities that define that place. In your essay of about 750 words, describe how stereotypes of race, class, and/or ethnicity shape the stories about this place that are told in conversations with friends, at family gatherings, at school, and/or in the media: Whose stories are dominant? Whose stories are absent? How do these stories affect how people live and interact with one another in this place?

Depicting Emotions

Throughout the book, Thomas takes great care to depict Starr's thinking and feeling as she navigates between her two communities and tries to grieve and find justice for Khalil. She experiences moments of grief and anger, confusion and clarity, as she processes the trauma of witnessing Khalil's murder and seeks justice in its wake.

Using a digital or print medium of your choosing, create a representation of a character's thinking and/or feeling from a particular moment in the book. You might, for example, create a visual depiction of a scene from the book through a comic, drawing, or painting. You might create a collage or a scrapbook page representing the event that the character is reacting to. You might also produce a video, audio, or textual dramatization from the book, either by scripting an existing scene in the novel or by scripting a scene or encounter that is mentioned in the novel but that is not directly represented.

To accompany your creative presentation, include a written statement describing: (1) the scene, emotion, or theme from the book that inspired your composition; (2) the goal or message of your composition; and (3) why you chose your particular medium.