

Thank you for signing up for our TalkFest session on "The Hate U Give"!

As the name TalkFest suggests, it is our intention for everyone to be able to participate and decide which of the issues raised by the movie they find most engaging. It is in the hope of enriching the conversation that we are providing some additional resources and questions, not as required reading or points to be followed but as food for thought.

Additional resources

- [Black Panther 10-Point Program & Code of Thug Life](#)
- [Excerpts from the documentary TALKING BLACK in AMERICA](#)
- [The Burden of Code-switching](#)
- [Boston Review MLK Reading List](#)
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Food for Thought

1. *The Hate U Give* begins with Maverick giving his children “the talk”. Why do you think the director chose to begin the film in this way?
2. Maverick has his children memorize the Black Panthers’ 10-Point Program, which he calls their own “Bill of Rights”. What does he mean by this? Why would African-Americans need their own Bill of Rights?
3. Point #7 states, “We want an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people (...) by any means necessary”. When, if ever, is violence justified as a means of dealing with the kinds of systemic violence depicted in the film?
4. The BLM activist Shamell Bell is quoted as saying, “It is impossible to be unarmed when our blackness is the weapon that they fear”. What does she mean by this?
5. Starr lives in two separate worlds. Why does she try to keep the two worlds separate? How does this affect her sense of identity? And her sense of belonging? Why does she eventually feel that she has turned her back on her people?
6. What examples can be found in the film of cultural appropriation? How are the terms “cool”, “hood” and “ghetto” used to describe “black” behaviors? What does this say about society’s double standards?
7. What significance do names have for Maverick? How does he react when he meets Chris for the first time? Would you describe his attitude as racist?
8. When Chris tells Starr that he does not see race, she responds, “If you don’t see my blackness, you don’t see me”. What does she mean by this? What would she say to those who believe that Obama’s presidency proves we are living in a post-racial society?
9. Both Obama and Starr are experts at code-switching. What are the psychological and societal costs of code-switching? What could be done to create more inclusive environments where people don’t feel pressured to code-switch?
10. Starr’s Uncle Carlos is himself a police officer. What point is being made by including him and other Black officers in the story?
11. What examples of microaggressions can be seen in the movie? What is implied about those who like Hailie think they are not racist because they have a black friend?

12. What about the media coverage of Khalil's death does Starr criticize during her interview?
What role does the media play in our attitudes towards crime in the inner city?
13. Why do people like Khalil end up selling drugs? Why according to Maverick is this a "trap"?
Why does he compare hustling to a conveyor belt?
14. In the code of THUG LIFE, Tupac states that "the interests of outside forces are being served by the hustlers because the crew has no dignity or honor" and therefore sets out to create such a code of honor. What are the advantages of members of the Black community patrolling their own neighborhoods instead of the police?
15. What is the meaning of T.H.U.G.L.I.F.E.? How is the concept used to structure the film? What does it imply about violence? What can be done to break the cycle of violence?
16. Starr's weapon is her voice. How does she light up the darkness with her superpower? What message does the movie convey about true liberation?
17. Lisa tells Maverick, "Where you live does not define who you are". Do you agree with this statement? Why in the end does the family decide to remain in Garden Heights?

TalkFest Project

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