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National English Honor Society

Intellectual Freedom Challenge

Power in Words

Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Keith Lamont Scott, and Kahlil Harris are some of the hundreds of African American men that have been fatally shot throughout history by white men (some even police officers). The Black Lives Matter movement participants raise their fists for equality, justice, and unity for those African Americans who are unable to speak today. Angie Thomas' novel, *The Hate U Give*, follows the victory of sixteen year-old Starr Carter over the struggle in finding her voice to speak about something only she was a witness to: her best friend Kahlil Harris' murder. Kahlil was unarmed and shot by a white police officer, and throughout the novel, his story is manipulated by those who choose to avert from the truth of racism. Thomas' novel is a powerful fist raised for justice and equality, and allows for the youth to see different perspectives on social injustice and police brutality.

In an instant, Khalil's life flashes before Starr's eyes. One-second he was brushing his hair in the car with his hairbrush, and the next he was in a pool of his own blood after the police officer, "One-Fifteen," shot him dead. While Starr crouches over Khalil's body, hoping for some form of life, "officer One-Fifteen yells at [Starr], pointing the same gun he killed [her] friend with. [She] put [her] hands up" (Thomas 24). Even though Starr and Khalil followed the directions of the officer, the white officer continued to behave unfavorably toward them. The racism committed by the officer not only changed the lives of the Harris and Carter family, but also the police officer's, Garden Heights, and Williamson Prep. As portrayed, racist acts have a life-changing

effect on the history and future of citizens all over the world, it is not limited to one individual. A few days after Khalil's death, Starr goes back to Williamson Prep where she realizes her importance in Khalil's case: "if [she] saw it happen to somebody, [she] would have the loudest voice, making sure the world knew what went down" (Thomas 35). Even in a state of shock, denial, and guilt, Starr realizes that there is the power of change in the individual, and it takes one strong voice to make a difference.

Instead of focusing on the information Starr shared with detectives, that Khalil was unarmed and followed the directions the officer gave, the media released stories about how Khalil was a drug dealer and was rude to the cop, so that made it "okay" for him to die. It takes an interview for Starr to be able to share with millions of people the truth about who Khalil was: "he hated drugs. He only sold them to help his [mother] out of a situation with the biggest drug dealer and gang leader in the neighborhood" (Thomas 288). This information that Starr shared with the world risked her and her family's lives. Her sharing it showed the individual power a person can have over a struggle, such as social injustice, to empower the youth. Also, Starr shares with the audience that friendships last past a lifetime, and she was going to fight until death for her best friend to be respected as an equal. After the interview with Starr and the police officer's father airs, Starr's friend makes a racist comment. "He was a drug dealer and a gangbanger... Somebody was gonna kill him eventually" (Thomas 341). Hailey had tried make Starr feel more guilt than she already felt by making a generalized and racist comment. Starr responded by fighting with Hailey, and this example could inspire other children in friendships to find new friends that have a positive impact on their lives, such as Maya, instead of staying with toxic friends that bully others.

Racism, profanity, death, and drugs make common appearances in *The Hate U Give*, which is why it is generally challenged. However, the novel does not condone any of those things, it simply shows the growth in all of the characters against adversity. For example, Maverick Carter was born into a family that revolved around drugs, violence, and money. One he became a father, he “realized that King Lord [stuff] wasn’t worth dying for” (Thomas 175).

In summation, *The Hate U Give* is a powerful novel that teaches the youth lessons about bullying, racism, and equality through the use of different perspectives and scenarios. Words hold power, and it takes a brave and adventurous person to find their voice.

Bibliography

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Activities and Societies: Associated Student Body, United States National Chemistry Olympiad, TSA TEAMS, Science Olympiad, Science Research, Science Bowl, Physics Bowl, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, National Chinese Honor Society, Principal's Advisory Council, California Scholarship Federation. Conducted pieces and played in the orchestra as a violinist and pianist. The orchestra played multiple charity concerts throughout the year. Honors & Awards. TSA TEAMS 1st Place Prepared Presentation. Jul 2016. The National English Honor Society is a service-based organization comprised of members who share a love for English. Our goal is to promote literacy in our community as well as a passion for reading amongst CSHS students. We also participate in activities created by our Student Government to support our school and local community. Remind: Text @nehscshs19 to 81010. PARTICIPATION: New and returning members must earn 10 club hours per semester. New members who meet the requirements will be officially inducted at the end of the year and seniors who have been in the club for two or more years will receive an honor cord to wear at graduation. Members can earn these hours by attending meetings and participating in club events and school activities. The National English Honor Society (NEHS) chapter in Oaxaca, Mexico, based at Instituto Blaise Pascale, has developed and led a ground-breaking literary. CFP: Oaxaca Chapter COVID-19 Journal. We are living through unprecedented times. National English Honor Society supports Banned Books Week with Intellectual Freedom Challenge, increasing student engagement with defense of contested books. More ideas. Intellectual Freedom: Support Banned Books Week. National English Honor Society supports Banned Books Week with Intellectual Freedom Challenge, increasing student engagement with defense of contested books. Community Service Projects - Project Based Learning.