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monica
reads

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CITYWIDE BOOK CLUB
JUNE 15-JULY 30

For free public book
discussion groups and
other events, check the
Santa Monica Reads website
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LIBRARY



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WELCOME TO

santa monica reads

2019 marks the seventeenth year of this community

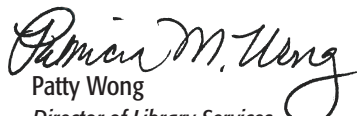
reading event, one of the longest-running programs of its kind in the United States. SANTA MONICA READS provides an opportunity for people to engage, read, and discuss the same book in guided conversation, discussion groups, and other special programs held throughout the city.

This year's selection is *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. In this powerful novel, sixteen-year-old Starr Carter's world is shattered when she becomes a key witness in the shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. When his death makes national headlines, Starr must decide whether or not to speak out. Her choice is complicated by pressure from both the police and the local drug lord, who try to intimidate Starr and her family. What Starr does—or does not—say will affect her safety and her community, as well as the national debate about police-community relations.

Angie Thomas's bold debut examines the complexities of race in America through a lens of social justice. During a time of increased violence against persons and communities of color, this is a critical topic. We hope Thomas's book will spark conversation about how interpersonal and structural racism affects our culture and society.

Please join us for a series of discussions about topics that *The Hate U Give* brings to the fore: identity, racism, police-community relations, class, poverty, the prison-industrial complex, white privilege, and social justice. Free public programs for all ages will be held throughout Santa Monica from June 15 through July 30, intersecting with the Library's annual Summer Reading Program. The roster of events include a filmed interview with the author, produced for SANTA MONICA READS.

The Hate U Give is available from the Santa Monica Public Library or your local bookstore. Thank you for your participation in building a stronger community through literature.


Patty Wong
Director of Library Services
Santa Monica Public Library



about the book

The Hate U Give captures the perspective of sixteen-year-old Starr Carter as she struggles to preserve a balance between her two polarizing worlds: Garden Heights, a predominantly black and underprivileged neighborhood, and Williamson, her mostly white, upper-class, suburban prep school. One night, Starr's life changes dramatically after a routine traffic stop turns tragic. Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of one of her best friends, Khalil, at the hands of a white police officer.

In the ensuing weeks and months, Starr grapples with fear, anger over injustice, and survivor's guilt as she and her family come under scrutiny. As the case receives national attention and protests erupt demanding justice, Starr feels pressure to take a stance. Her desire to maintain dual identities proves more and more difficult as her two very separate worlds begin to collide. If there is to be hope for change, Starr decides she must break her silence.

This high-profile, powerful, and heartbreakingly realistic story by debut author Angie Thomas addresses how racism affects marginalized populations, especially African Americans. *The Hate U Give* shines a light on the complexities of race in America and invites social commentary. It poses many important questions about police brutality, discrimination, prejudice, and fear. It also encourages readers to get involved in the change they want to see in the world. Timely and thought-provoking, *The Hate U Give* has received literary praise and won readers' hearts worldwide. The book was awarded the Coretta Scott King and the Michael L. Printz Honor Awards in 2018.



about the author

"Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right."

– Angie Thomas, *The Hate U Give*

Angie Thomas was born in 1988 and grew up in Jackson, Mississippi. At an early age, Angie was exposed to crime, drug dealing, and gang violence in her neighborhood. In an attempt to expose Angie to a world beyond the violence in their neighborhood, her mother took her to the library. As a young woman, Angie learned how to navigate a world where gun violence and police brutality were an everyday reality. Her interests included reading, writing, and rapping. She received recognition as a teen rapper, including an article in *Right-On!*, a teen magazine featuring African American celebrities. She went on to receive a Creative Writing degree from Belhaven University.

The Hate U Give is Angie Thomas's debut novel. It began as a short story based on her childhood and young adulthood. The story grew into a novel following a 2009 incident where 22-year-old Oscar Grant, an unarmed black man, was detained and fatally shot in the back by Oakland, California police. Oscar's death, as well as other shootings of unarmed black men, inspired Thomas to finish the book. *The Hate U Give* was published in 2017 and debuted at number one on the *New York Times* young adult best-seller list; it remained on the list for over 50 weeks. The book has received critical acclaim, won several awards, and been made into a major motion picture.

Angie Thomas currently resides in her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi and recently released her second novel, *On the Come Up*.

recommended reads

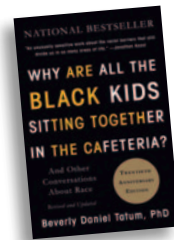


How It Went Down

by Kekla Magoon

In this unforgettable young adult novel, the horror and pain over the shooting death of sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson reverberates throughout his community. Seventeen distinct narrators tell this taut, multilayered story, which mirrors our current news headlines.

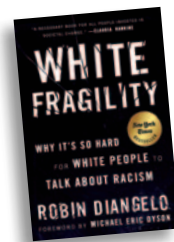
In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts line up. Together, they all reveal just as much about the last seconds of Tariq's life as they do about human nature, racism, and the societal cost of generational poverty. Heartbreaking and hard to put down, this is an important book about perception and race.



Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race

by Beverly Daniel Tatum

The central goal of Tatum's book, first published in 1997, was "to help others move beyond fear, anger, and denial to a new understanding of what racism is, how it impacts all of us, and ultimately what we can do about it." The book explores how race in public education systems affects the ways students identify and segregate and, also, how they connect with each other in such a diverse world. A renowned authority on the psychology of racism, Tatum advocates for honest dialogue and greater opportunity for a national conversation on the dynamics of race.



White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

by Robin DiAngelo

Anti-racist educator Robin DiAngelo provides an in-depth and timely exploration of how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what can be done to engage more constructively. DiAngelo suggests that white people sit with their fragility, work through the discomfort, listen to people of color, and help enable meaningful cross-racial dialogue.



The Rose That Grew From Concrete

by Tupac Shakur

Uncovered after his death, this collection of Shakur's poetry, written when he was just nineteen, reveals his spirit and energy. An acclaimed musician and actor, who was murdered at the age of twenty-five, Shakur lays bare his most honest and intimate thoughts, as well as his ultimate message of hope.



GhettoSide: A True Story of Murder in America

by Jill Leovy

The thesis of *Los Angeles Times* reporter Jill Leovy's book is simple: the criminal justice system fails to respond vigorously to violent injury and death and thus homicide has become endemic in African American communities. Leovy conveys that this failure has caused these communities to suffer from the lack of an effective criminal justice system resulting in the nation's long-standing plague of black homicides.

RESOURCES

The Race Card Project

Established in 2010, The Race Card Project encourages people to condense their experiences and observations about race into a sentence of just six words. People from all over the world have contributed providing great insight into personal perceptions and conversations about race and cultural identity. You can submit your own or view other short six-word essays at theracecardproject.com

California African American Museum (CAAM)

Founded in 1977 and located in Los Angeles's Exposition Park, CAAM permanently houses 4,000 objects that include paintings, modern and contemporary art, historical objects, print materials, and mixed-media artworks of African American artists with an emphasis on California and the western United States. caamuseum.org

The Museum of African American Art (MAAA)

The Museum of African American Art is a nonprofit cultural institution that primarily supports the arts and artists in Los Angeles for free public enrichment. It also serves as an exhibit venue and a community event space, often hosting informational events about African Americans. maaaala.org

Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC)

Founded as the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia in 1961, the structure consists of seventeen major sculptures created by Italian immigrant Sabato "Simon" Rodia. The Arts Center has been the curator and guardian of the towers since its inception. WTAC provides programs, classes, and exhibitions for cultural enrichment year round. It supports arts education as well as master and aspiring artists in Southern California. wattstowers.org



Interactive Display: Race Card Project

Sat, June 15 | 10:00am to 5:30pm | Main Library, Lobby

Make a Race Card to display! Distill your thoughts, experiences, or observations about race into one six-word sentence.

Codeswitching: What Does It Mean?

Wed, June 19 | 7:00pm | Fairview Branch Library

The Hate U Give explores the ways its main protagonist Starr codeswitches her identity and behavior with different groups. At this panel talk, UCLA linguistics experts explain the academic concept of codeswitching and how it translates into everyday social behavior, especially among young people in diverse and multilingual settings.

Movie and Discussion: *The Hate U Give* (2018)

Sun, June 23 | 1:30pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Nominated for five NAACP Image Awards, the powerful adaptation of this year's Santa Monica Reads title stars Amandla Stenberg in the role of Starr Carter. Director George Tillman Jr. and other guests, schedules permitting, join us after the screening for a discussion of the film. (Film runtime: 133 min.)

Movie and Discussion: *Dear White People* (2014)

Tue, June 25 | 6:00pm | Montana Branch Library

This sharp comedy-drama explores racial identity through the stories of four black college students when a riot breaks out over an 'African American' themed party at a white fraternity. A discussion about the shared themes of the film and *The Hate U Give* follows the screening. (Film runtime: 108 min.)

We Read Diverse Books #weneeddiversebooks

Wed, June 26 | 7:00pm | Ocean Park Branch Library

Angie Thomas stands at the top of a recent wave of diverse literature written by female authors of color or featuring main characters of color. Join librarians as they share their favorite reads from this recent wave of diversity. For adults and teens.

Author Talk: *Ghettoside* with Jill Leovy

Thu, June 27 | 6:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

First released in 2015, Jill Leovy's *Ghettoside* provides readers with a nuanced, multi-viewpoint window into the plague of homicides impacting the Watts community in Los Angeles. Ms. Leovy joins us to share insights gained in the reporting and writing that went into *Ghettoside* and the reaction that followed the book's publication.

Holler If Ya Hear Me: The Impact of Tupac Shakur

Tue, July 2 | 7:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

The influence of rap artist and poet Tupac Shakur is keenly felt in *The Hate U Give*, most notably in the book's title but also in the impact his words have on the main characters. Join us as we discuss Tupac and other artists like Kendrick Lamar and Chance the Rapper and the ways in which they have helped illuminate and elevate young black voices.

Movie and Discussion: *Fruitvale Station* (2013)

Tue, July 9 | 6:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

In this feature film based on a true story, Oscar Grant III, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident, crosses paths with friends, enemies, family, and strangers on the last day of 2008. A discussion about the shared themes of the film and *The Hate U Give* follows the screening. (Film runtime: 85 min.)

Blackout Poetry

Fri, July 12 | 2:00pm | Main Library, Lobby/Courtyard

Unleash your inner poet by bringing new life to old book pages. Create a poem by selecting certain words on a page and covering the rest with a permanent marker. When only these words are visible, a brand-new story is created. For adults and teens.

Race Relay: A Multimedia Production

Sat, July 13 | 2:00pm | Main Library, Multipurpose Room

Explore the way race shapes our lives and world with *Race Relay*, a multimedia theater presentation. Designed to explore race relations in America today, it uses drama, music, and video to create a unique interactive experience. Space is limited and on a first arrival basis.

Race Relay Discussion

Tue, July 16 | 7:00pm | Main Library, Multipurpose Room

Denise Hamilton, writer and director of *Race Relay*, invites audience members and new participants for a conversation of open reflection on their feelings and attitudes about race.

Fan Confessionals: A Film about *The Hate U Give*

Tue, July 23 | 7:00pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Join us for this special screening of fans sharing how *The Hate U Give* has affected them, filmed especially for Santa Monica Reads.

Movie and Discussion: *All Eyez on Me* (2017)

Thu, July 25 | 6:00pm | Ocean Park Branch Library

The life and legacy of Tupac Shakur are explored in this feature film, including his rise to superstardom as a hip-hop artist, actor, poet and activist, and his prolific, controversial time at Death Row Records. A discussion about the shared themes of the film and *The Hate U Give* follows the screening. (Film runtime: 139 min.)

book discussions

Santa Monica Reads book discussions are hosted by trained discussion facilitators. Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts about this year's book selection and its themes or are welcome to simply listen and learn more about the book.

Sat, June 29 at 11:00am Main Library, Multipurpose Room

Wed, July 3 at 4:00pm Fairview Branch Library

Wed, July 17 at 7:00pm Montana Branch Library

• Jill Leovy's *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America* will also be discussed.

Thu, July 18 at 6:30pm Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

Sat, July 20 at 11:00am Ocean Park Branch Library

Tues, July 30 at 6:30pm Main Library, Community Room

program locations

Main Library*

601 Santa Monica Boulevard

Fairview Branch Library*

2101 Ocean Park Boulevard

Montana Branch Library*

1704 Montana Avenue

Ocean Park Branch Library*

2601 Main Street

Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

1210 Fourth Street

*City of Santa Monica facilities are wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations, call Library Administration 310-458-8606 (TDD 395-8499) at least one week prior to event.

THANKS TO:



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING BOOK DISCUSSIONS AND PROGRAMS, AND THANKS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT FOR SANTA MONICA READS.