

THE HATE U GIVE

ANGIE THOMAS

edulit

Extras online: Reading questions

This book comes with free multiple choice questions to check your basic understanding of the text. You can answer the questions after each chapter or whenever you are ready. Click on an answer and you receive immediate feedback.

With the help of these questions you can be sure that you have understood the plot.

Here are two sample questions:

What do Starr and Kenya have in common?

- ☐ They both like the same boy.
- ☐ They go to the same school.
- ☐ Seven is their brother.

What's the name of Kenya's crush?

- ☐ Khalil
- ☐ Denasia
- ☐ DeVante

Scan this QR code to access the questions:



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Abbreviations

adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
AE	American English
BE	British English
derog.	derogatory
e.g.	for example
esp.	especially

fig.	figurative
fml.	formal
infml.	informal
p., pp.	page, pages
sb.	somebody
sl.	slang
sth.	something

For Grandma,
who showed me there can be light in the darkness.

PART 1

WHEN IT HAPPENS

CHAPTER 1

5 I shouldn't have come to this party.

I'm not even sure I *belong* at this party. That's not on some bougie¹ shit, either. There are just some places where it's not enough to be me. Either version of me. Big D's spring break² party is one of those places.

10 I squeeze through sweaty bodies and follow Kenya, her curls bouncing past her shoulders. A haze³ lingers⁴ over the room, smelling like weed⁵, and music rattles the floor. Some rapper calls out for everybody to Nae-Nae⁶, followed by a bunch of "Heys" as people launch into their own versions. Kenya holds up her cup
15 and dances her way through the crowd. Between the headache from the loud-ass music and the nausea⁷ from the weed odor, I'll be amazed if I cross the room without spilling my drink.

We break out the crowd. Big D's house is packed wall-to-wall. I've always heard that everybody and their momma comes to his
20 spring break parties – well, everybody except me – but damn, I didn't know it would be this many people. Girls wear their hair colored, curled, laid, and slayed. Got me feeling basic as hell with my ponytail. Guys in their freshest kicks⁸ and sagging pants grind⁹ so close to girls they just about need condoms. My nana likes
25 to say that spring brings love. Spring in Garden Heights doesn't always bring love, but it promises babies in the winter. I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of them are conceived¹⁰ the night of Big D's party. He always has it on the Friday of spring break because you need Saturday to recover¹¹ and Sunday to repent¹².

1 bougie [bu:'zi]: being part of a higher class (bourgeois) 2 spring break: school holidays in spring 3 haze: air that is difficult to see through 4 to linger: to stay in place 5 weed: marijuana 6 Nae-Nae: see QR code p. 374 7 nausea: feeling sick and dizzy (before throwing up) 8 kicks: sneakers 9 to grind: to dance, to move 10 to conceive a baby: to make a baby 11 to recover: to get back to one's normal state 12 to repent: to feel sorry and apologise for one's bad or wrong actions

“Stop following me and go dance, Starr,” Kenya says. “People already say you think you all that.”

“I didn’t know so many mind readers¹ lived in Garden Heights.” Or that people know me as anything other than “Big Mav’s daughter who works in the store.” I sip my drink and spit² it back out. I 5 knew there would be more than Hawaiian Punch in it, but this is way stronger than I’m used to. They shouldn’t even call it punch. Just straight-up liquor³. I put it on the coffee table and say, “Folks kill me, thinking they know what I think.”

“Hey, I’m just saying. You act like you don’t know nobody 10 ‘cause you go to that school.”

I’ve been hearing that for six years, ever since my parents put me in Williamson Prep. “Whatever,” I mumble⁴.

“And it wouldn’t kill you to not dress like...” She turns up her nose as she looks from my sneakers to my oversized hoodie. “*That.* 15 Ain’t that my brother’s hoodie?”

Our brother’s hoodie. Kenya and I share an older brother, Seven. But she and I aren’t related. Her momma is Seven’s momma, and my dad is Seven’s dad. Crazy, I know. “Yeah, it’s his.”

“Figures. You know what else people saying too. Got folks 20 thinking you’re my girlfriend.”

“Do I look like I care what people think?”

“No! And that’s the problem!”

“Whatever.” If I’d known following her to this party meant she’d be on some *Extreme Makeover*⁵: *Starr Edition* mess, I would’ve 25 stayed home and watched *Fresh Prince*⁶ reruns. My Jordans⁷ are comfortable, and damn, they’re new. That’s more than some people can say. The hoodie’s way too big, but I like it that way. Plus, if I pull it over my nose, I can’t smell the weed.

1 mind reader: a person who knows other people’s thoughts 2 to spit sth. out: to force drinks or food out of one’s mouth 3 liquor [ˈlɪkər]: strong alcoholic drink

4 to mumble: to say something in a soft voice 5 *Extreme Makeover*: US reality TV series 6 *Fresh Prince*: see pp. 371 and 374 7 Jordans: a type of sneakers, named after the basketball player Michael Jordan

Background information

African American Vernacular English

African American Vernacular¹ English (AAVE) is the kind of English spoken by people with African roots in the US and in some parts of the Caribbean. It was probably created in the 17th and 18th centuries as a *lingua franca*² among slaves in the New World, most of whom came from different tribes that had no common language. It became the spoken language of the slaves on plantations in the American South, where Blacks were often in the majority, and was brought to the cities of the Northeast and California during the Great Migration of the early 20th century. Nowadays, AAVE serves a kind of linguistic marker showing who “belongs” to the Black minority and who doesn’t.

AAVE differs in several ways from Standard English:

Vocabulary

- AAVE contains a number of words that are not found in Standard English:
homie (friend), stank-eye (an unfriendly look), yo (hey), bro / bruh (brother)
- Other words are used with a somewhat different meaning:
I’m good (I’m okay), we’re cool (we get on), we got you (we understand you).

Spelling and pronunciation

As AAVE is mainly a spoken language, the spelling closely follows the pronunciation:

a’ight (alright), li’l (little), nah (no), c’mon (come on), wanna (want to), gonna (going to), thang (thing).

¹ vernacular: the kind of language that is used in everyday speech ² lingua franca: a language used for communicating by people who speak different languages

Did you know ...? – Facts about rap and hip hop

Rap and hip hop artists play an important role in Starr's life and are frequently mentioned throughout the novel. But how much do you really know about hip hop culture?

What is rap? What is hip hop?

- There's a difference between rap and hip hop. "Rap" usually refers to a specific music style, while hip hop is a broader culture that includes dressing a certain way (baggy pants, sneakers), breakdancing, graffiti and music.
- Popular hip hop musicians often have nicknames, such as **Snoop Dogg** (p. 308).
- Rap is a mix of singing and talking with a strong focus on rhyme and rhythm over melody and harmony. It consists of three elements: content, flow and delivery.

History

- Rapping has its roots in African traditions of storytelling to the beat of a drum. In its modern form, it was developed by DJs and MCs (masters of ceremonies) at block parties in New York in the 1970s. Because of that, Rapping is also sometimes referred to as "MC-ing".
- Among other styles, Rap has its roots in American R&B music. Starr mentions **Jodeci** (p. 125), an American R&B quartet formed in 1989 and comprising two sets of brothers: Donald "De Vanté Swing" DeGrate, Dalvin "Mr. Dalvin" DeGrate, Cedric "K-Ci" Hailey and Joel "JoJo" Hailey. ► Scan the **QR code** on p. 374 and listen to Jodeci.
- Rap is strongly associated with black youth culture in big cities. Its lyrics often deal with poverty, crime, and cultural conflicts. "Gangsta rap" is characterized by the use of swear words and homophobic or misogynistic language. Much has been made of the connections between famous rappers and criminal gang activities.

References to African-American history

Throughout the novel, Starr and her father refer to various incidents, ideas and persons from African-American history. This timeline can help you understand their references.

1930 **The founding of the Nation of Islam** (p. 31)

The Nation of Islam is a Black nationalist, separatist organization founded by Wallace Fard Muhammad in 1930. In spite of its name, the movement is not recognized by authorities in the Muslim world as a form of Islam. The Nation of Islam has c. 50,000 members, mostly in the US. Critics accuse the movement of being patriarchal, racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic.

1955 **The killing of Emmett Till** (p. 69)

Emmett Till was a 14-year-old Black boy from Chicago who was killed in the summer of 1955. While visiting relatives in Mississippi, Emmett bragged about flirting with a white woman, who later accused him of having sexually harassed her. Her husband and his half-brother took Emmett down to the river, brutally beat him and shot him in the face. The two men were arrested and put on trial, but an all-white, all-male jury found them innocent. When pictures of Emmett's mutilated body were published in "Ebony", a national magazine for African Americans, they attracted national attention. Emmett Till's murder became one of the incidents that inspired the Civil Rights Movement.

1965 **The assassination of Malcolm X** (p. 30)

Born Malcolm Little in Nebraska in 1925, Malcolm X converted to Islam while serving a prison term. He changed his name to Malcolm X as a sign that he had lost the connection to his tribal ancestry. As a preacher for the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X became the leading political opponent of