

Living Literature presents The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

for Reading Across Rhode Island 2018

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter is a black girl and an expert at navigating the two worlds she exists in: one at Garden Heights, her black neighborhood, and the other at Williamson Prep, her suburban, mostly white high school. Walking the line between the two becomes immensely harder when Starr is present at the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, by a white police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Khalil's death becomes national news, where he's called a thug and possible drug dealer and gangbanger. His death becomes justified in the eyes of many, including one of Starr's best friends at school. The police's lackadaisical attitude sparks anger and then protests in the community, turning it into a war zone. Questions remain about what happened in the moments leading to Khalil's death, and the only witness is Starr, who must now decide what to say or do, if anything.

Thomas cuts to the heart of the matter for Starr and for so many like her, laying bare the systemic racism that undergirds her world, and she does so honestly and inescapably, balancing heartbreak and humor, in Starr's natural, emphatic voice, finely nuanced characters, and intricate and realistic relationship dynamics.

As they have for the past eight years, **Living Literature** has created a 60 minute, four actor, readers theatre presentation of this first time novelist's engaging story. Living Literature is a collective of Rhode Island based artists and educators creating readers theatre style presentations to dramatize non dramatic writing, using only the author's words; allowing the audience to experience the events and characters of the story in an unique way. Since its inception in January of 1996, Living Literature has created over 100 presentations based on poems, stories, novels, plays, essays, biographies, articles, and oral histories. They have presented the works of more than 100 different authors, and done presentations in over 100 schools and libraries, and other community venues throughout southeastern New England.

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as well as Rhode Island Center for the Book, ribook.org, for more details.

