Key Stage 3 English – Kemnal Keys

Year 9 Term 2 The Hate U Give

Assessment Question:

How does Angie Thomas portray the relationship between the police and some black communities in modern America?

	Know This is what students should have a <i>working knowledge</i> of	Remember This is what students should remember in the long-term
B i o g r a p h y	 Angie Thomas was born in Jackson, Mississippi USA, a state in the Southeastern region of the United States. She began writing 'The Hate U Give' as a project while studying creative writing at Belhaven University, a mainly white college in her hometown. Thomas has stated that her work initially focused on fantasy, but, following the encouragement of a professor, she decided to draw more heavily from her experience as a black woman in the southern United States. She also decided to focus specifically on a female main character (protagonist) in her debut novel, feeling that black girls' experiences were too often overlooked by mainstream media and activism. In 2016, Thomas won a grant to enable her to publish her book; it was her first. Upon publication in 2017, The Hate U Give became an immediate bestseller and won numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King Award. Thomas is a lover of hip hop, she briefly performed as a rapper as a teen. She has stated that she is deeply influenced by the work of Tupac Shakur, whose definition of the phrase "Thug Life" grants the novel its title. 	 Thomas is a black female writer from southern America. She wrote in the modern era Thomas has won numerous awards including the Coretta Scott King award The Hate U Give takes its title from Tupac Shakur's phrase 'THUG LIFE' She wanted to focus specifically on a female main character in her debut novel.
C o n t e x t	 Race, Place & Identity: There is a relationship between race & identity-the world of Garden Heights is primarily black & the world of Williamson Prep is primarily white. The idea that children are not born as blank slates but are born as innately pure and good was primarily proposed by Rousseau. The Hate U Give examines the notion that children are not born hating others but learnt through prejudice from others. Tupac, Malcolm X & systemic racism in America that leads to poverty and segregation. Comparisons should be made between 1960's America and 21st Century America. There is a tendency in society to blame people who suffer disproportionately from social problems. Different interpretations of Poverty in modern Britain; Dr Marcus Rashford & Free School meals. The Tropes of Black Fathers & broken homes is prevalent in certain cultures and subcultures. 	 Black stereotypes are used to justify violence & oppression. What stereotypes are and how people use them to justify violence and oppression. A child is born completely innocent and pure. They are only contaminated by contact with corrupt forces. (place, poverty, society) THUG There was segregation in the Southern states of The United States until the 1960s. Martin Luther King Jr & Malcolm X were seen as symbols of the American Civil Rights movements. Segregation in the South of America and the Civil Rights movement (Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X, Million Man March)
C h a r a c t e r s	 Starr Carter stands out as a strong articulated young black woman character who is analytical and sharp. Her emotions are immediate and unfiltered. Khali Harris is Starr's childhood best friend who struggles with the reality of growing up in a neighbourhood consumed by drugs, gangs & economic uncertainty. Is a victim of police brutality & prejudice and is fatally killed. Lisa Carter is a nurse and mother to Starr & Sekani she teachers them the differences between right and wrong. Her outlook on life draws from Dr King's preaching on compassion and forgiveness. At times a foil to her husband. Starr's father Maverick inspires Starr with his pride in being black. Maverick's outlook on life draws inspiration from the Black Power Movement, in particular Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party. Often called the foil to Martin Luther King Jr.'s peaceful protests, King is the leader of the King Lord's Gang in Garden Heights. Chris is Starr's boyfriend who attends Williamson Prep and Starr struggles with her identity around him. 	 Starr Carter is the protagonist and a strong, clever, articulate young black woman. Khali Harris is the victim of injustice and racism and is killed during a police traffic stop. Maverick Carter is a strong black man, father and prominent member of the community. King is the antagonist and a destructive force within the local community Chris is Starr's boyfriend that tries to understand her life and the way she struggles with her identity.
E v e n t s	 Starr reunites with Khalil Shots at the party Reacting to Khalil's death Starr gets flashbacks of Khalil's death Starr talks to the police Riots in Garden Heights Students at Williamson protest Maverick has an incident with the police Maverick finds out about Starr's boyfriend Chris tells Starr he knows she is the witness Shots fired at Starr's home Starr testifies for the grand jury Starr and Hailey get into a physical fight Starr and her family move home The Grand Jury decides not to indict the officer that killed Khalil 	How events in the text are based on real events. Thomas's novel highlights the modern protest movement Black Lives Matter, which grew in response to real-world incidents of police brutality. Four main moments from history are relevant in this novel. The events involved the deaths of Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and Emmett Till. (Black Lives Matter, Friedersdorf) Thomas was specifically inspired by Oscar Grant, an unarmed black man who was killed in 2009. "In Thomas's novel, Starr says that she "can't breathe" following Khalil's shooting, speaking about the death of Eric Garner; Garner was an unarmed black man killed after being put in a chokehold by a police officer, and his last words, "I can't breathe" are referenced here. The fact that officials leave Khalil's body in the street calls to the treatment of Michael Brown, a black teen shot and killed by a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014; Thomas's novel also draws upon the historical legacy of the Civil Rights movement. On her blog Starr posts a photograph of Emmett Till,

 King burns Maverick's store Conclusion and final thoughts 	the fourteen-year-old black child lynched in 1955 after allegedly harassing a white woman. Maverick makes his children memorize teachings from the Black Panthers, a political party founded in the 1960s to defend minority communities from police violence, and he has a photograph in his store of party co-founder Huey Newton."
 How are different identities e.g gender, race, class represented in the story? What does this story make you think about how the world works? Does the story suggest the author thinks the world is a place of justice and fairness? Does the author think the world needs to change in some way? The actions of the character often have an impact on the lives of others in their communities. Where can inequality be seen in the novel? What form(s) does it take? Is inequality ever desirable in society? 	 Diversity, race activism identity symbolism duelling identities poverty equality/inequality prejudice forgiveness justice change and action responsibility

Do This is the disciplinary knowledge that students should demonstrate

- How to sustain a thesis across a whole essay.
- Characters can represent specific ways of looking at the same thing.
- How to evaluate characters and societies.

Literary themes

Students will encounter examples of these themes in later units, and can relate new examples of these themes to specific events and characters from study in this unit:

- Childhood
- Christianity
- Morality

- Hypocrisy
- Social class **justice**

Non-fiction forms

Non-fiction texts augment the study of this unit's core text, and vice-versa. These forms of non-fiction writing are studied throughout this unit.

- Information sheets
- Non fiction news articles
- Nineteenth & 21st century short stories