

Summer Reading Announcement!

Dear Classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025:

At the urging of the department chairs in English, Social Studies, and Religious Studies, Presentation formed a small committee to look at how we implement summer reading.

After collecting feedback from a variety of community members, we are delighted to announce these exciting changes:

1. **There will now only be ONE summer reading book that everyone will be invited to read together** (students, faculty/staff, parents and alumnae).
2. There will be **no summer reading exams** in classes anymore!
 - a. Students will participate in discussion circles at the beginning of the year along with faculty members.
 - b. At the conclusion of finals we will be sending out key terms and discussion questions that we will use to guide us in the Fall.
 - c. There may be optional follow-up experiences for those interested.
3. The committee attempted to find a book that speaks to our current moment addressing topics we feel are important to the mission and values of Presentation High School. This year's selection is:
 - a. [The Hate U Give / El odio que das](#)
 - b. Author: Angie Thomas

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a happy summer!

Mr. Buell
One School, One Book Committee Chair

Read Below For More Information on what the book is about, why we should read it, and content warnings (the below section is optional - what you see above is the essential information).

Official Synopsis:

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Source: <https://angiethomas.com/the-hate-u-give/>

Why “The Hate U Give” for Presentation High School?

The One School, One Book committee set before itself the task of finding a text that would appeal to a wide ranging audience. As we began the research phase, the committee decided to focus on the following themes: Racial Justice and Equality/Women's Issues and Feminism/Kindness & Acceptance: How to Combat Hatred. These issues are radically relevant to today's world and the committee felt *The Hate U Give* addresses these topics in a challenging but approachable manner. Presentation compels its graduates to be dedicated to working with others, a person who is able to demonstrate respect for human diversity and the dignity of human beings. Next year our school theme will be “Do Small Things with Great Love.” This quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta along with Ms. Thomas' novel allows all of our readers to contemplate what actions we need to take, big or small, in the face of racial injustice and discrimination.

Why “The Hate U Give” for a Catholic school?

In 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published a pastoral letter against racism: “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.” The USCCB writes: “we call on our...Catholic schools...to develop curricula relating to racism and reconciliation. Our campus ministers should plan young adult reflections and discussions that strive to build pathways toward racial equality and healing. We charge our...educational institutions to break any silence around the issue of racism, to find new and creative ways to raise awareness, analyze curricula, and to teach the virtues of fraternal charity” (26).

“*The Hate U Give*” is not intended as a “Catholic” text, but our job as a Catholic school is to take the culture our communities exist in and read it through the lens of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that Starr's story will give us the opportunity to engage in the discussions the Bishops have asked our communities to address.

“The Hate U Give” in support of our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

This novel was chosen as it invites all members of our community to engage on current events which are present in our reality, which include prejudice, racism, class, discrimination. Our hope is that this book will provide all members of the community to reflect on their own identity, engage in critical thinking, and will provide support and agency for social change through dialogue centered on empathy, humility, love and courage. Through reading this novel, there is the opportunity to challenge, confront and disrupt stereotypes and misconceptions, and the invitation to authentically commit ourselves to justice, faith, and compassion.

Content warning for “The Hate U Give”

The novel contains themes that reflect the real world. We want our readers to know that there is profanity, some sexual situations, gun violence - specifically violent actions of police against the Black community. The novel also deals with the question of racial identity in relation to social circles and authority.