

# Summer Reading 2020



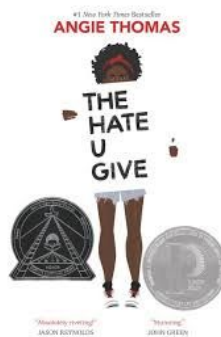
WHERE UNIQUE MINDS  
LEARN IN UNIQUE WAYS

Things have been topsy-turvy during this latter part of our school year. Life as we once knew it, has changed. But change is good because we grow when we are tested.

We all miss our learning community. To help us feel more connected to one another, to help us prepare for the fall, and to help us feel engaged with our larger world, TCS is planning a school-wide reading of Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. This book is available in all reading formats!

English classes will be studying this contemporary young adult novel in September. **In lieu of a packet of questions, we ask that students simply read this novel to prepare.** Think of this independent reading as a head start for the fall as well as a talking point around the dinner table during this global Civil Rights Movement.

★★★★★ *Angie Thomas's The Hate U Give* is necessary, topical, and heart-breaking.



*School Library Journal* offers this summary:

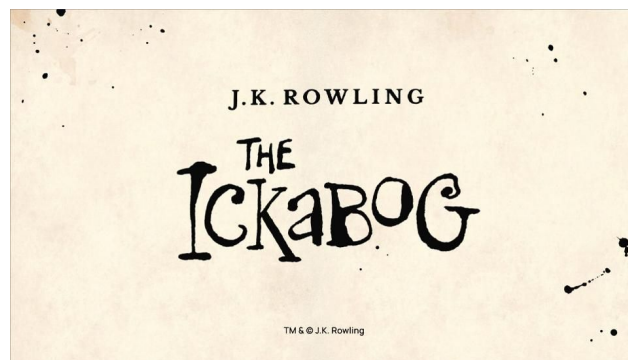
Gr 8 Up—After Starr and her childhood friend Khalil, both black, leave a party together, they are pulled over by a white police officer, who kills Khalil. The sole witness to the homicide, Starr must testify before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict the cop, and she's terrified, especially as emotions run high. By turns frightened, discouraged, enraged, and impassioned, Starr is authentically adolescent in her reactions. Inhabiting two vastly different spheres—her poor, predominantly black neighborhood, Garden Heights, where gangs are a fact of life, and her rich, mostly white private school—causes strain, and Thomas perceptively illustrates how the personal is political: Starr is disturbed by the racism of her white friend Hailey, who writes Khalil off as a drug dealer, and Starr's father is torn between his desire to support Garden Heights and his need to move his family to a safer environment. The first-person, present-tense narrative is immediate and intense, and the pacing is strong, with Thomas balancing dramatic scenes of violence and protest with moments of reflection. The characterization is slightly uneven; at times, Starr's friends at school feel thinly fleshed out. However, Starr, her family, and the individuals in their neighborhood are achingly real and lovingly crafted. VERDICT Pair this powerful debut with Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely's *All American Boys* to start a conversation on racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement.—Mahnaz Dar, *School Library Journal*

Also, check out what *The New York Times* had to say when it was published in 2017:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/19/books/review/black-lives-matter-teenage-books.html>

It goes without saying that reading is essential. Please take a look at the link to the PA Department of Education to see what it has to say about the importance of reading over the summer.

<https://blog.ed.gov/2011/08/why-summer-reading-pays-off-year-round/#:~:text=Summer%20is%20an%20important%20time,and%20improve%20their%20language%20skills.&text=Numero us%20studies%20indicate%20that%20students,reading%20abilities%20stagnate%20or%20decline.>

Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Wright love nothing more than to sit on the beach or a lawn chair under a tree and get lost in a good book. Two other books that we are both reading or re-reading this summer and which we recommend in addition to *The Hate U Give* are:



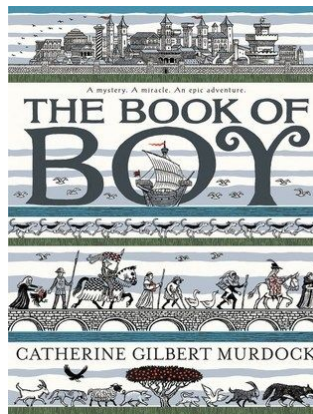
J.K. Rowling's *The Ickabog*, is a free on-line serialized chapter book. She started publishing a chapter every weekday since May 28, and will continue posting until July 10. She is even offering a contest for readers; submit illustrations that are representative of each chapter. The lucky winners will have their illustrations included in her hardback publication in November!

**From “The Next Web”:** J.K. Rowling, the author who defined the childhoods of a generation, is publishing a new children’s story called *The Ickabog*. She’s offering the whole thing for free to help children and parents who are struggling to get through the pandemic.

Rowling warns that this isn’t *Harry Potter*. Judging from the first chapter, it’s got much more in common with fairy tales aimed at younger children — the chapter even begins “Once upon a time.” The story is being released chapter-by-chapter on its own dedicated site, and you can read each for free.

To read the book, use this link: <https://www.theickabog.com/en-us/home/>

and



**Catherine Gilbert Murdock’s *The Book of Boy*, is “ A mystery. A miracle. An epic adventure.”**

A young outcast is swept up into a thrilling and perilous medieval treasure hunt in this award-winning literary page-turner by acclaimed bestselling author Catherine Gilbert Murdock. *The Book of Boy* was awarded a Newbery Honor. “A treat from start to finish.”—*Wall Street Journal*

Boy has always been relegated to the outskirts of his small village. With a hump on his back, a mysterious past, and a tendency to talk to animals, he is often mocked by others in his town—until the arrival of a shadowy pilgrim named Secundus. Impressed with

Boy's climbing and jumping abilities, Secundus engages Boy as his servant, pulling him into an action-packed and suspenseful expedition across Europe to gather seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

Boy quickly realizes this journey is not an innocent one. They are stealing the relics and accumulating dangerous enemies in the process. But Boy is determined to see this pilgrimage through until the end—for what if St. Peter has the power to make him the same as the other boys?

**From Mrs. Griffith:** A pestilence has ravaged the countryside, and Boy goes off on his "Hero's Journey". He struggles with being loved, knowing his worth, and being an outcast because no one, including himself, is quite sure what and who he is. There are knights, and bandits, and thieves who challenge him and his "mentor."

This book is available in all formats.

If you are interested in supporting a local bookstore, The Wellington Square Bookshop in the Eagleview Town Center is absolutely magical. (Mrs. Griffith sold books there once upon a time and encourages you to visit. It has re-opened.) More importantly, however, support your local library. Library cards are free! (Since libraries are not open yet, you can borrow e-books.)

*Sorbet*, an on-line literary publication, says this about libraries:

Support them, love them, use them.

"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold, rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen, instead."

--Caitlin Moran

"Public institutions such as libraries and universities are supposed to be about facilitating a broad exchange of ideas, especially those that provoke and make us uncomfortable. Otherwise, they're just book clubs."

--Robyn Urback

As always, Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Wright encourage you to read as much as you'd like!  
We are always excited to hear about what you are reading and what you think of it.

This information will be posted on "TCS 2020 Summer Reading" Google Classroom and our school website.

We hope you all enjoy your summer and take this assignment seriously so that we can get right to work in September!

Happy Reading,

*Mrs. Griffith & Mrs. Wright*