

Activism as BlackFatherhood Capital in *The Hate U Give*

In the context of Black Lives Matter, Angie Thomas's highly acclaimed young adult novel, *The Hate U Give*, raises awareness and promotes advocacy for the Black lives that have been lost through police brutality. Further, Thomas's work encourages readers to empathize with Black lives in low-income communities by highlighting the ways in which the law, racialized institutions and systems work to deny these individuals citizenship reducing them to a caste system. In this paper, I show how Black fatherhood functions as activism in Thomas's novel. Maverick Carter, (the protagonist's father), is a former drug dealer and gangbanger who has managed to escape the trap of a caste system. I argue that Maverick's wealth of cultural capital position him as an activist father and advocate for his children and other Black children within his community. Drawing on Tara Yosso's cultural capital, I analyze Maverick's wealth of fathering capital, and how he utilizes his capital to navigate his children through racialized institutions like school, and the criminal justice system which lead to mass incarceration of Black children. Through acts of resistance and protest, Maverick Carter helps his son avoid the trap of gangbanging and drug dealing by achieving a high school diploma. Maverick's activism, disrupts a generational cycle of high school dropouts, gangbanging, and drug dealing, and rewrites the "thug father."