

Reclaiming the Angry, Black Girl: Revolutionary Black Girlhood, Anger, and Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*

New York Times Best-Selling YA novel *The Hate U Give* has caused an eruption of both critical and pedagogical conversation in the field of children's literature. Marah Gubar praises Angie Thomas for her creation of a text about communities of color and racial violence that chooses not to embrace empathy as the path to racial amity. Gubar argues that Thomas's text instructs readers that "activism aimed at outlawing the discriminatory policies and procedures [that target youth of color]" is the only way to amend contemporary race-relations. In my presentation, I will extend Gubar's assertion by arguing that *The Hate U Give* reclaims the figure of the "angry black girl" as a site of revolution. By using Audre Lourde's "The Uses of Anger," I intend to demonstrate the ways in which main character Starr embraces her anger and develops it into social activism. Early in the text, Starr recognizes that her friendship with Khalil has propelled her into the realm of public politics. However, it is only after she embraces her intersectional identity, as a black girl from a lower-class neighborhood, that she begins to accept the fact that her existence was always already political. My paper also extends Katharine Capshaw's arguments about activist children's literature by outlining the ways that *The Hate U Give* is not simply reflecting the cultural moment of Black Lives Matter but actively asking readers to become political revolutionaries.