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Dear Angie Thomas,

We all have those times where we think we are ugly I know I have. I have always wanted to be a different skin color. I saw all these beautiful girls who are not black and people seemed to like them more. I thought it was because of my skin no one would ever like me. I put on a lot of makeup to make myself "prettier". I hated being different than all my friends. I would cry because I thought myself of an "ugly girl". The hurt I felt whenever I tried to act like I was happy was harder than most would understand. It got to a point where my family thought I had depression. But finally my mom got me your book and I read it. It changed everything for me. I became more confident. Reading *The Hate U Give* gave me a different perspective on how I could get through it Starr Carter gave me the confidence that I could do anything no matter what skin color I am. The book reminds people that no matter what color they are they deserve to be treated with respect. Every page I turned in your book gave me more and more of a perspective of how lucky I am to be me. I relate to Starr a lot too. Your book was the best book I have ever read because I feel people should be aware of how hard it is when people are put down for being their skin color. After reading your book it made me think of ways I could help bring awareness to police brutality. Khalid should not have been shot when he was unarmed. If I was Starr in her situation I would most likely end up being more involved in trying to

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help with police brutality. No matter how brutal someone gets hurt it is not ok to let this happen. It wasn't until I ended the book that I noticed how horrible and often this brutality has happened. I have been trying to figure out how to start a Young Adult book club at school, not only for the purposes of reading YA literature, but also to have discussions with high schoolers and young adults about some of the issues in the world. *The Hate U Give* would open up so many doors for conversations regarding race, power, privilege, and social and family dynamics.

The only struggle I see with this book is that the reader must be woke or willing to be woke to trust the truth of the story. Starr proves throughout the book that she is a reliable narrator. As a character, she is reliable and truthful within the context of the story, which conveys her reliability to the reader. Yet there are people, personified in Hailey, who will choose not to believe Starr's story. And rejection of her story is essentially rejecting the stories of other witnesses, dead and alive, who still proclaim that we can't reach equal when so many people are willing to kill for separate.

Though I am just a 13 year old girl with no experience of anything in society except for I wake up and go to school. Your book has really changed me and my vision of the world. I just want to thank you for your wonderful book and helping me get a better perspective on the world.

Sincerely,

Orlandra Foote, Grade 7

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