



8.3 Knowledge Organiser: Film Introduction - Representation with The Hate U Give

Plot Summary – The Hate U Give:

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds -- the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. When she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer, her worlds collide and creates pressure from all sides of the community. Through this, Starr must find her voice and decide to stand up for what's right.

Steps to success:

1. Be able to identify and explore key techniques of film language such as mise-en-scene and cinematography.
2. Comprehension of plot is key: identify what is happening, to who and, crucially, why, throughout the film.
3. Understand how relevant context influences viewers.
4. Develop an understanding of characters and their character types, alongside who they may represent in the real world.
5. Aim to respond to the reaction of other viewers to show understanding of their opinion alongside your own views, using examples from the film and the novel to offer evidence.

Key Vocabulary

Definition



representation

(n) the description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way.

prejudice

(n.) preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

ideology

(n.) a system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political choices and decisions.

mise-en-scene

(n.) French term meaning 'to place on stage'. In film & TV, the term is used to refer to everything you can see on screen.

cinematography

(n.) the art of photography and camerawork in film-making that involves where to place and move a camera, alongside how to light a scene or film overall.

symbolism

(n.) the use of symbols, objects or character types to use suggestion to express ideas, emotions, and states of mind.

denotation

(n.) the literal or primary meaning of a word.

connotation

(n.) an idea or feeling which a word creates for a person in addition to its literal or denoted meaning.

protest

(n.) statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something.

Character Description

Starr

Protagonist, who witnesses the shooting of her friend Khalil and later finds herself as the centre of unwanted attention as a result.

Chris

Starr's boyfriend, the **love interest**. Representing the side of Starr's life away from her hometown.

Mav

The **father figure** in the film who offers guidance and support to his children. A reformed gang member who has a strong moral code.

King

One of the **antagonists** in the film. King is the local drug dealer "kingpin" and controls much of what is said and done in Garden Heights

Hailey

Begins as one of Starr's best friends but becomes a **foil character** who shows prejudice and reflects the views of those who defend the police officer.

Mise-en-scene

Mise-en-scene is comprised of:

- **Setting:**
Where & when something takes place. These inform our understanding of plot as well as create expectations for the audience.
- **Props**
Items used by characters or visible to characters that develop character, plot or the realism of the film.
- **Positioning**
The location of characters in a scene or where they move to/from to suggest ideas.

Cinematography

Cinematography is comprised of:

- **Shot size:**
How large or small the image is, created by how close the camera is to a person or object.
- **Camera angle:**
The angle we view a person or object from.
- **Camera movement:**
The description of how a camera moves in a scene.
- **Lighting**
The overall brightness of a scene & the colours that stand out and how that

Representation

Representation is created by:

- Is the character shown in a **positive** or **negative** way?
- How does the character act? How are they **treated**?
- How is that character and their treatment or actions on screen **symbolic** of a real-life person or group of people?
- How does the film use film language to create that portrayal of people?
- How does that representation make the audience feel? What do we learn from the film because of who is being represented?