



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Announces *The Hate U Give* as Community Read Title for March 2019

Charlotte, N.C. January 22, 2019 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library announces that *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas will be the main title for its annual Community Read program, held March 2019. The Library will lead a month-long community-wide effort to have adults and teens read and discuss *The Hate U Give*. To ensure the whole family participates, the Library has also selected companion titles for preteens and children: *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate and *Love* by Matt de la Peña.

Community Read is presented by Bank of America with additional support from Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation. Throughout March, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is invited to read the books and participate in programs and discussions at the library and partner locations. Scheduled author appearances include Angie Thomas on March 19, 2019, and Matt de la Peña on March 28, 2019. Details and ticket information will be released soon.

“Engaging the residents of Charlotte to read and have meaningful dialogue on topics critical to Charlotte provides an opportunity to understand the different perspectives and experiences of our community,” said Charles Bowman, Charlotte and North Carolina market president for Bank of America. “Partnering with our local libraries and community partners, together, we can create constructive solutions to help Charlotte move forward.”

“A community read is designed to bring people together around a single book while establishing a community of readers and learners,” said Dana Eure, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s acting library director and branch channel leader. “This program encourages discussions to help generate a deeper understanding of experiences and viewpoints regarding current, prevalent and sensitive social issues, and connect them with our daily lives and local communities.”

Another Community Read goal is to create a community dialogue around the themes of *The Hate U Give*. The book is available through the Library’s catalog in various print, digital and audio formats. It will also be distributed through Community Read partner organizations. In March 2019, the Library will hold readings, book discussions and other programs for participants that bring the book’s themes to life.

As a leader in this effort, the Library will be joined by community partners to enhance the reach and impact of this significant reading event. Organizations like the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, City of Charlotte Community Relations Department and

Johnson C. Smith University will support activities and participate in library programs to promote the value of reading and literacy throughout the community.

“*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas was chosen by library staff, customers and the community through several surveys,” said Meryle Leonard, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s outreach channel leader. “We believe *The Hate U Give* has broad appeal and the potential to spark discussion on a wide range of topics that are crucial to Charlotte and the greater community.”

The Hate U Give held the number one spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 83 weeks and was released as a major motion picture in October 2018.

To learn more about Community Read, visit www.cmlibrary.org/communityread.

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About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America’s leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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Media Resources:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom <https://www.cmlibrary.org/library-news>

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