

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***New York Times* #1 Bestselling Author Angie Thomas to Speak at Head-Royce School**



On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, Head-Royce proudly welcomes Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give* and *On the Come Up*. Thomas's debut novel *The Hate U Give* (2017) spent two years on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was made into a movie starring Amandla Stenberg in 2018.

"*The Hate U Give* fully embodies what Toni Morrison once said: 'Books are a form of political action. Books change your mind,'" says Head of School Crystal Land. "I can't wait to welcome Angie Thomas—author of this life-changing, politically important novel—to Head-Royce. Hearing from her directly, and having the rare opportunity to ask her questions, will certainly expand our ongoing conversation around equity and social justice in teaching and learning."

In her lecture "Finding Your Activism," Angie Thomas will discuss why she wrote *The Hate U Give* and explain the importance of depicting young Black people in fiction, beyond narratives of trauma, poverty, and discrimination. "I'm a firm believer that if our current leaders read books about Black kids when they were kids, we wouldn't be where we are today," Thomas recently told *The New York Times*.

Thomas will also demonstrate "why we need more compelling depictions of Black girls in art, often lost in discussions of Black youth in general." Head-Royce 8th grader Raven R. '24 agrees, saying: "As a Black female I find it very hard to find people like me in the media."

When asked what she hopes Angie Thomas will bring to Head-Royce, Raven says, "I hope the event will bring wisdom to those who are ignorant about Black social issues and white privilege. I hope it will bring kids together who otherwise might not have ever talked. Finally, I hope it will bring joy to others like me who are inspired by Angie Thomas." While on campus, Angie

Thomas will meet with Upper School students from the Black Student Union and Diversity Council, and Middle School students who take part in the Justice League and Students of Color Alliance.

The event marks the 17th installment of the NIA Speaker of Color Series, an annual School event that takes place in February to celebrate Black History Month. NIA was established in 2003 when four Head-Royce mothers met to discuss how they could contribute to and support the three tenets of the Head-Royce mission: scholarship, diversity, and citizenship. They decided to launch an annual lecture, one that would be open to the Head-Royce and greater Oakland community. NIA remains steadfast to its tradition and commitment to celebrating Black History Month with voices of power, engagement, and change. Past NIA speakers include Anthony Robles, Glenn Singleton, and Roberta Flack.

These founding NIA members also established the NIA Endowed Scholarship Fund to support the tuition for students of color admitted to Head-Royce School. Seventeen years later, the Fund has grown to over \$250,000 and is part of the School's \$5.9 Million annual scholarship budget, which helps ensure that students of all backgrounds have equal access to attending Head-Royce. All proceeds from [ticket sales](#) will go to the NIA Endowed Scholarship Fund.

"The NIA Committee is thrilled the dynamic and engaging Angie Thomas will engage in conversation that will confront racism, encourage activism, and impact the educational experience of young people," says Parents' Association President Vangeria Harvey. "Angie Thomas affirms that young people should not stay silent and should hold strong to their convictions."

Tickets for **Angie Thomas: Finding Your Activism** at Head-Royce can be purchased [here](#). All are welcome.

[Head-Royce School](#) is a K–12 independent school located in Oakland. Founded in 1887, Head-Royce is committed to its mission of scholarship, diversity, and citizenship. To reserve tickets for groups of ten or more, email [Communications](#).

Event Details:

[Angie Thomas: Finding Your Activism](#)

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Head-Royce School, Oakland

Doors: 4:30, event: 5:30