

12th Grade Thematic Topic: Social Justice

Native Son by Richard Wright

Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic.

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez-*In the Time of the Butterflies* is a [historical fiction](#)^[1] novel by [Julia Alvarez](#), relating a fictionalized account of the [Mirabal sisters](#) during the time of the [Trujillo](#) dictatorship in the [Dominican Republic](#). At school, one of the sisters, Minerva, meets a girl, Sinita, who later became one of her best friends. Sinita eventually confided in Minerva the truth about Trujillo - that their "glorious" leader was a killer. The sisters make a political commitment to overthrow the Trujillo regime. They are harassed, persecuted, and imprisoned, all while their family suffers retaliation from the [Military Intelligence Service](#) (SIM).

As vengeance for their political activities, Trujillo orders three of the sisters be killed on Puerto Plata Road, with their driver Rufino, while returning from visiting their husbands in jail. The women and driver are beaten to death and later their vehicle and bodies are dumped off a cliff in order to make their deaths look like an accident.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey: The novel tells the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her. We see the story through the eyes of Chief Bromden, the seemingly mute half-Indian patient who witnesses and understands McMurphy's heroic battle with the powers that keep them all imprisoned.

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Guiding Questions:

- Can literature serve as a vehicle for social change?
- When should an individual take a stand against what he/she believes to be an injustice? What are the most effective ways to do this?
- Is it ever necessary to question the status quo?
- Do we have choices concerning fairness and justice?

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about Social Justice. As you read, consider the thematic topic and guiding questions above and record your thoughts. You are responsible for identifying and recording textual evidence, as well as reflecting upon and analyzing how the evidence relates to the theme. In September, you will use these notes to write and speak about the text in class and submit them to your teacher for a grade. You may choose from any of the note-taking options listed below, but your notes must fulfill the following requirements:

- There is no minimum page requirement. However, notes must cover the entire length of the text. Be sure to include notes from the beginning, middle and end of the text.
- Notes must include textual evidence (include page number) and your thoughts, analysis, interpretation, and/or questions.
- Notes may be typed or handwritten. If you choose to type the notes, you must have a printed copy to use in class by the second day of school.

Note-Taking Options and Rubric

1. Dialectical Journal (Two-Column Notes): Using a two-column format, engage in a written dialogue with the text as you read. In the left-hand column, write the important text. In the right-hand column, respond to the text. This is where you can include reflections, analyses and explanations of how the text connects to the thematic questions.

2. In-Text Annotations: For in-text annotations, you will need to have a physical copy of the book. Record your notes directly in the book (if you purchased the book) or on post-it notes, reflecting how the text connects to the guiding questions. You will need to bring the book and your notes the first day of classes. Each post-it shall include the date and page number.

3. Outline: Create a structured outline focused on the theme and supported with textual evidence. It may be helpful to organize it based on the plot or by guiding questions.

4. Mind Mapping: Create a visual representation of text, important characters or plot episodes that connect to the guiding questions. Use lines, arrows, bubbles and/or sketches to link notes to the theme.

<p>20 Description Notes are thorough and reflective, and appear to cover the full length of the text.</p>	<p>10 Notes are somewhat thorough and reflective, and appear to cover some of the text.</p>	<p>0 Student did not complete or submit notes.</p>
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