Role of Gangs and Drugs: *The Hate U Give* depicts gangs, drugs, and violence as largely the result of lack of opportunity. The deck is stacked against many residents of Garden Heights, who may turn to gangs and drug dealing as their only means of supporting their loved ones and protecting themselves. This, in turn, traps the community in a vicious cycle of poverty and crime.

**Evidence:**

- **Turf Wars** “Garden Heights has been a battlefield for the past two months over some stupid territory wars”
  
  Page # 17

- **Respect** (King Lords try to claim Khalil as member of their gang) “King Lords only show up at King Lord funerals”
  
  Page # 130

- **Gang traditions** (folded bandana on body) “Daddy once said that’s a King Lord tradition...as if to say they’re going into heaven repping their set. Khalil must’ve joined to get that honor”
  
  Page # 132

- **Khalil selling drugs** “But I swear I wanna cuss Khalil out. How he could sell the very stuff that took his momma from him? Did he realize that he was taking somebody else's momma from them?”
  
  Page # 64

- **Cycle of Thug Life** “Drugs are destroying our community...You got folks like Brenda, who think they need them to survive, and you got the Khalils who think they need to sell to survive....That’s Thug Life.”
  
  Page # 170

- **Economic reality** “Like I said, nobody likes selling drugs,” he says. “I hated that s**t. For real. But I hated seeing my momma and my sisters go hungry, you know?”
  
  Page # 238

Sources: *The Hate U Give*, LitCharts.com