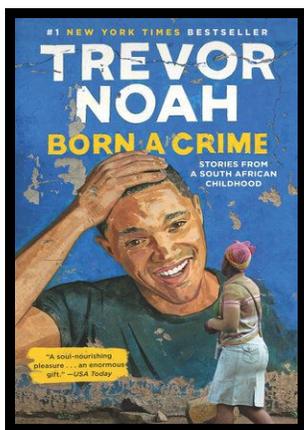


## One School, One Book: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

### Summer 2019 Assignment Information

Prior to your return to school in September, you are being asked to read Trevor Noah's autobiographical comedy, *Born a Crime*. When you come back to school, you should be prepared to discuss the book with your English class and complete a writing assignment connected to your reading. As you read, your English teachers are expecting you to do the following:



1. Use sticky notes to flag at least five places in the text. On the sticky notes, indicate what you find thought-provoking, offer text-to-text/text-to-self/text-to-world connections, note an aspect of the book that is confusing, or jot down something that you would like to discuss in class.
2. Use sticky notes to write one strong discussion question after each of the three parts of the book. This means you will have a total of three discussion questions. Strong discussion questions cannot be answered with a "yes/no" or other one word responses. Your questions should help your class dig deeper into the text. "How" or "why" questions are usually strong discussion questions.

---

### About The Book

"Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.



*Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love." (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE)