

Upper School
Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Task: Read and annotate *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

ISBN-13: 978-0399588198

Synopsis:

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.

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood is available on Amazon and other online and in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the book on your own.

Please finish reading ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** before the first day of school and bring your book to your first English class.