



New Explorations into Science Technology + Math
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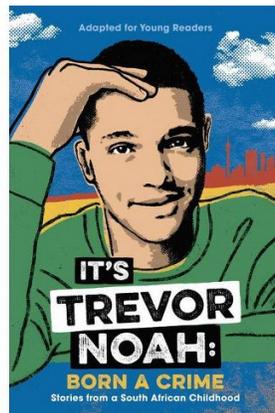
ELA 8 Summer Assignment



Hi! Welcome to 8th Grade ELA. Below you will find your summer assignment. If you have any questions, please contact me at: LTurnowski@schools.nyc.gov. Have a great summer!

Shared Text:

[It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood](#)
Due Friday, Sept. 14th



We will read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, a memoir that shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child to exist. But he did exist--and from the beginning, the often-misbehaved Trevor used his keen smarts and humor to navigate a harsh life under a racist government. In a country where racism barred blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor surmounted staggering obstacles and created a promising future for himself, thanks to his mom's unwavering love and indomitable will.

Please complete the assignment below:

1. Please read the shared text, *Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah. You may read the young adult version or the adult version:

[Born a Crime – Trevor Noah](#) (pdf)

[It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood \(Adapted for Young Readers\)](#)

[Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood](#)



2. Write a letter to a 5th grade student. Your letter should be formatted in the following way:
 - a. Introduce yourself! Let your pen-pal get to know a little bit about you.
 - b. Describe a scene in the book that really stood out to you. Explain what happened in the scene, and why it resonated with you. Be specific!
 - c. Tell the reader what life lesson you learned from this book. You can make connections to other books you've read or your own life to help explain the lesson.
 - d. Wrap up your final thoughts on the book – share one question you still have after reading the book and one question you'd like to ask your pen-pal.

Summer is the perfect time to catch up on some great books! While there is no required reading for the break (other than *Born a Crime*), you are highly encouraged to check out some titles from the following list of 2020's hottest summer books:

- **NYPL:** [Summer Reading 2020](#)
- **B + N:** [100 Books of Summer for Teens & YA](#)
- **Read Brightly:** [Summer Reading 2019 for Teens: Young Adult Books](#)
- **We Need Diverse Books:** [Summer Reading Series](#)

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A few other things...

- Bring an independent reading book with you on the first day of school. **As a general note, you should always have an independent reading book with you in class.**
- Please only use blue/black pen to complete your assignments. If you would prefer to type your work, please use 12-point font (a normal font, nothing fancy!)
- For ELA this year you will need the following supplies:
 - *a five-subject notebook with pocket-folders **OR** a binder with dividers and loose-leaf paper **OR** 5 one-subject notebooks*
 - *a steady supply of blue/black pens*
 - *2 - 3 reams of college-ruled loose-leaf paper*