

NEST+M Grades 9 + 10: Summer Reading 2020

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Dear 9th and 10th Graders,

This past Spring, people all over the United States and the rest of the world erupted in protest over ongoing issues of racial injustice and police brutality in the United States. Despite the legal abolishment of race-based discrimination, systemic racism is pervasive in our country and in our world.

It is fitting, then, that this summer, you will be reading Trevor Noah's memoir, *Born A Crime*, a collection of stories that chronicles Noah's experience growing up during apartheid in South Africa and after apartheid was abolished.

From Random House Publishing: "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."

Our Grades 9-10 Summer Assignment:

1. Read through the resources below before you read the book.
2. Read *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. You can find this book in any public library or local bookstore.
**If you cannot obtain a copy, please email Ms. Gordon at rebeccagordon@nestmk12.net to ask for a pdf.
3. Complete the writing activities below.

Writing Activities

At least one of your three responses should include a text-to-self connection.

- After you finish Part I of the memoir:
 - Identify a **quotation** (this could be one sentence or one paragraph) that you find especially interesting, relatable, or surprising. The quotation must be from Part I.
 - Write the quotation down with a **page number**.
 - Write at least a **paragraph** (five sentences) in which you make a **text-to-text or text-to-self or text-to-world connection** to the concepts, ideas, or questions that arise from the quotation.

- Ex// How does my life, the life of a friend/ family member, or the life of a favorite character relate to what Noah is experiencing?
 - Ex// The most surprising/ shocking aspect of this quotation is...
 - Ex// What are the underlying socioeconomic/ political/ interpersonal/ racial issues being touched upon in this section and how do I feel about them?
- After you finish Part II of the memoir:
- Identify a **quotation** (this could be one sentence or one paragraph) that you find especially interesting, relatable, or surprising. The quotation must be from Part II.
 - Write the quotation down with a **page number**.
 - Write at least a **paragraph** (five sentences) in which you make a **text-to-text or text-to-self or text-to-world connection** to the concepts, ideas, or questions that arise from the quotation.
 - Ex// How does my life, the life of a friend/ family member, or the life of a favorite character relate to what Noah is experiencing?
 - Ex// The most surprising/ shocking aspect of this quotation is...
 - Ex// What are the underlying socioeconomic/ political/ interpersonal/ racial issues being touched upon in this section and how do I feel about them?
- After you finish Part III of the memoir:
- Identify a **quotation** (this could be one sentence or one paragraph) that you find especially interesting, relatable, or surprising.
 - Write the quotation down with a **page number**.
 - Write at least a **paragraph** (five sentences) in which you make a **text-to-text or text-to-self or text-to-world connection** to the concepts, ideas, or questions that arise from the quotation.
 - Ex// How does my life, the life of a friend/ family member, or the life of a favorite character relate to what Noah is experiencing?
 - Ex// The most surprising/ shocking aspect of this quotation is...
 - Ex// What are the underlying socioeconomic/ political/ interpersonal/ racial issues being touched upon in this section and how do I feel about them?

Formatting your Summer Reading Homework

- **Format:** Typed, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced.
- **Header:** Include a header in the top-left corner of each submission with the following (in order):
 - o Your Name
 - o Your Grade
 - o Teacher (If known)
 - o Due Date - 9/10/20

Optional Engagement After Reading:

- Join our **blog** and have a discussion with your peers!
 - Blog Website: www.msbraydon.edublogs.org
 - To sign up/ start posting:
 - Click this link and make an account--
<https://edublogs.org/?join-invite-code=7639646-nest347>
 - Create a username and password. ****Note:** Your username should be **first name** and your **last initial**.
 - If that username is already taken, please consider adding a number to the end.
- **Read** supplemental resources (here and updated on the blog)!
 - On the Soweto Uprising:
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Soweto-Uprising/603600>
 - Los Angeles Review of Books -- Born a Crime: A Memoir of Love, Hope, and Resistance by Jeneé Darden
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/born-crime-memoir-love-hope-resistance/>
- **Watch** supplemental videos (here and updated on the blog)!
 - **13th** Documentary:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>
 - Combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America.
 - **TEDxRainier:** Let's get to the root of racial injustice by Megan Ming Francis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aCn72iXO9s>

****Please Note:** This is your first impression in English class. Please turn in thorough, thoughtful, original work. Any content that is paraphrased or directly copied from an external source or another student's work without an appropriate citation (ex// web address, book title/ author, etc.) will not be given credit.

RESOURCES:

Read about these terms before you read *Born a Crime* so that you understand the context of Trevor Noah's childhood.

On Apartheid

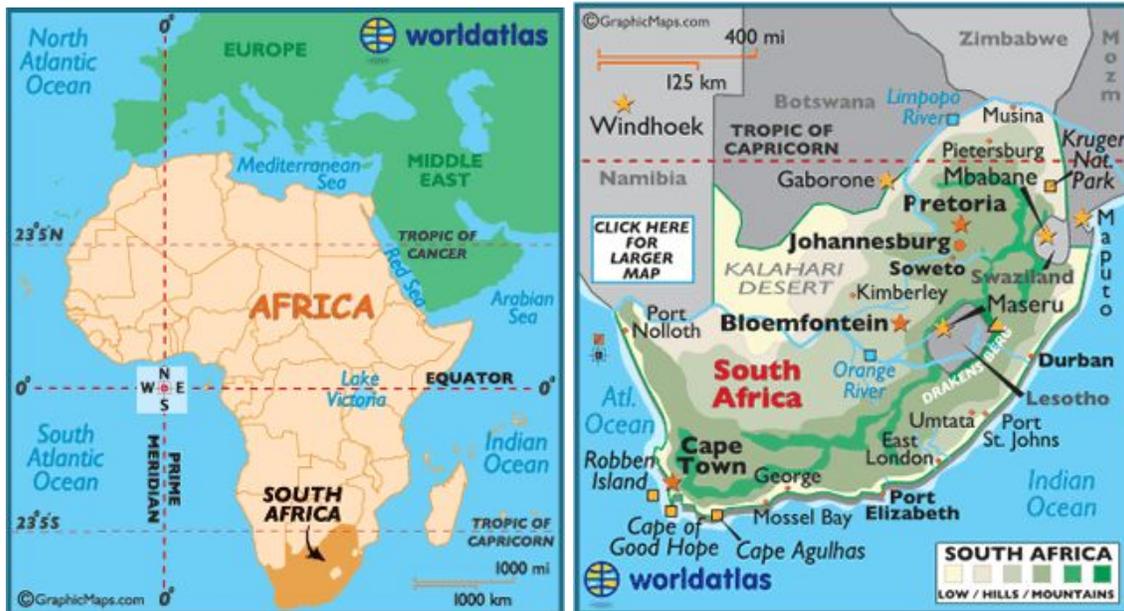
- From Encyclopedia Britannica --
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/apartheid/352764>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apartheid> (Keep in mind that Wikipedia is an editable source. Please refer to the sources at the bottom of any document you view).

On Jim Crow laws:

- From Khan Academy--
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/the-gilded-age/south-after-civil-war/a/jim-crow>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Crow_laws (Keep in mind that Wikipedia is an editable source. Please refer to the sources at the bottom of any document you view).

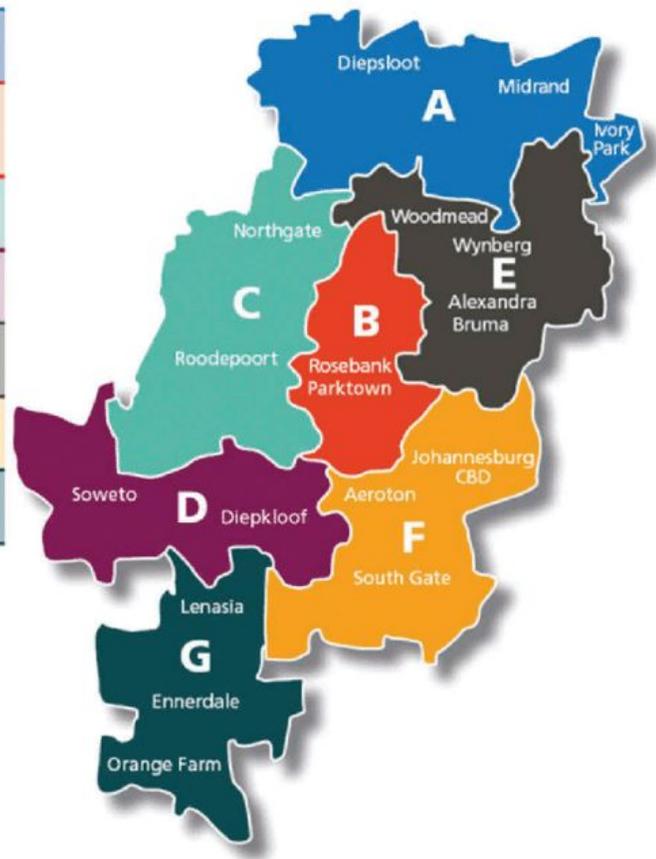
Apartheid Explained by AJ+: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7yvnUz2PLE>

Maps: See below.



Townships in Johannesburg, South Africa

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Region A | Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Dainfern, Midrand, Lanseria, Fourways |
| Region B | Randburg, Rosebank, Emmarentia, Greenside, Melville, Mayfair, Northcliff, Rosebank, Parktown, Parktown North |
| Region C | Roodepoort, Constantia Kloof, Northgate, Florida, Bram Fischerville |
| Region D | Doornkop, Soweto, Dobsonville, Protea Glen |
| Region E | Alexandra, Wynberg, Sandton, Orange Grove, Houghton |
| Region F | Inner City, Johannesburg South |
| Region G | Orange Farm, Weilers Farm, Ennerdale, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Protea South |



Credit: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17549175.2019.1626262?journalCode=rjou20>