



## Summer Reading Assignment revised for 2022-2023

Welcome to ninth grade CORE! We look forward to introducing you to this unique learning experience that will strengthen your skills as a student and your understanding of humanity.

In preparation for the 2022-2023 school year, you are required to complete a summer reading assignment. The ninth-grade teaching team has selected the book, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, a memoir that chronicles his childhood and coming-of-age story in South Africa. The genre of memoir may be one that is new to you. It is important to keep in mind that memoir is **the story of a part of someone's life and unlike a biography, which tends to be more factual and chronological, memoir tends to be more creative and focused on a shorter period of time.** More importantly, memoir distinguishes itself as a genre because the author is usually reflective in their writing, providing insights and lessons that they've learned through the events in their life, and sometimes asking the reader to evaluate their own life and experiences. Read *Born A Crime* with this in mind; Trevor Noah is only 38 but has much to tell us about his life growing up in South Africa.

### **About the Book (Adapted from Penguin Random House Academic Resources):**

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 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.

### **About the Author (Adapted from Penguin Random House Academic Resources):**

Trevor Noah is the host of the Emmy® and Peabody® Award–winning *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central. Noah joined *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart in 2014 as a contributor. He continues to tour all over the world and has performed in front of sold out crowds at the Hammersmith Apollo in London and the Sydney Opera House in Australia as well as many U.S. cities. He is originally from South Africa.

## General Directions:

Read ALL of the questions **BEFORE** you begin reading his memoir, so you know what you're looking for. We would even recommend taking notes (annotating) as you read (on paper, in the book, on a Google Doc, a Word Doc, on post-its, or whatever works for you). **Note-taking is only a suggestion and is not a required part of this assignment.** However, if you know what you're looking for as you read, it may be easier to pay attention to the story and the way Noah tells it. These questions cover the entire book, so your teachers will be looking for evidence that you read the whole book, not just particular chapters to answer these questions. Keep in mind, for this assignment there are no right or wrong answers. We are most interested in hearing your insights about the text.

## How to Format your Paper:

- Make sure you use a proper heading on the left-hand side of the paper. See example below:



- Your paper should be double-spaced, written in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font
- Your response to each question should be numbered.
- Skip a space between each response.

## **Part One: Reader's Inventory**

**First, we would like to get to know you as a reader...**

1. Do you like to read? Why or why not?
2. How often do you read for pleasure? Explain.
3. Please rate yourself as a reader on a scale of 1-10 and explain why you gave yourself that rating.
4. What's your favorite book? Why?
5. What's your favorite book that you've read in school? Why? What made the reading of that book an enjoyable experience?

## **Part Two: Personal Reflection**

**Then, we are interested in your reaction to the book in general...**

1. What was the most challenging part of reading Noah's story? Why?
2. What is your favorite chapter of Noah's story? Why?

## **Part Three: Text Study**

**Now, let's get into the specific aspects of the story that make the overall memoir what it is.**

1. **DICTION, or WORD CHOICE**, is simply the words the writer chooses to convey a particular meaning. When analyzing diction, look for specific words or short phrases that seem stronger than others.

While reading, find a short passage that has specific words or short phrases that stand out to you. Copy the words or phrases (citing the page number) and explain why it stood out to you. Explain the *impact* these words had on you.

2. One of the elements of memoir that makes it different from the genre of biography is the **AUTHOR'S REFLECTION**. The **AUTHOR'S REFLECTION** consists of the lessons they gain from their experiences which ultimately result in the messages that they attempt to convey to readers. Rather than just a retelling of experiences, think about how the author uses their experiences to send an overall message to their audience.

Identify one place in the text where Trevor Noah reflects on his experiences- copy the passage and cite the page number. Then, explain why you chose this particular passage. Answer the following questions in your response:

- What does he tell you, the reader, in this passage?
- Is this section written differently than other parts of the story?
- What do you believe he wants you to take away from that section/his story?

## Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is crucial to the integrity of the individual student and our program. All students at Cleveland Humanities Magnet are expected to meet the highest standards of honesty in their academic work. You must **do your own work** and encourage you to not put off the summer assignment until the last minute.

Turnitin.com is the cloud-based service we use to check for originality and detect plagiarism. It is used by more than 10,000 institutions in 135 countries, including many high schools and universities, to manage the tracking, submission, and evaluation of student work online. Due to our high standards of academic honesty, students will be required to use Turnitin.com throughout their four years in the Core program.

## How to submit your summer assignment:

1. Please turn in your summer assignment online to **turnitin.com**. See instructions below.
2. Also, bring a **hard copy** of your summer assignment on **the first day of school** to your **Core English teacher**.

## Turnitin.com Instructions:

1. Go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
2. If you already have an account, go to the top right hand corner of the page and enter your email address and password. If you do *not* already have an account, click *Create Account*.
3. Click on student
4. Input the class ID number: **34689097**
5. Input the class enrollment password: **corebaby**
6. Your class will show up on your homepage. Click on the name of your class to open your class portfolio: **9<sup>th</sup> Grade CORE 2022-2023**
7. Your class portfolio shows the assignments your instructor has created and your submissions to the class. To submit a paper, click the submit button next to the paper's assignment. (**Summer Assignment-Born a Crime Text Study**)
8. The paper submission page will open. Enter a title for your paper. To select a paper for submission, click the *browse* button and locate the paper on your computer. We accept submissions in these formats:
  - MS Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, and plain text (.txt)

After entering a title for your paper and selecting a file, click *submit* to upload your paper. If your paper is in a format that we do not accept, you can submit it by cut and paste. To submit a paper this way, select *cut & paste* using the pull down at the top of the form. To submit a paper by cut and paste, copy the text of your paper from a word processing program and then paste it into the text box in the submission form. If you submit your paper using the cut and paste method, you can skip the next step.

The paper you chose to submit will be shown on the next page. Look over all the information and make sure that it is correct. To confirm the submission, click the *yes, submit* button. The format will be correct on the paper you turn in, even if it does not appear correct when you review it.

After you confirm your submission, a digital receipt will be shown. This receipt will be e-mailed to you. To return to your portfolio and view your submission, click the portfolio button.

## 9. Turn in a paper copy on the first day of school.

10. Submission starts on **June 13, 2022** and will end on **August 12, 2022 at 11:59 pm**.

\*If you have any questions/issue regarding the summer assignment or turnitin.com please contact Grace Oh ([goh@corebaby.org](mailto:goh@corebaby.org)) or Marisa Del Pino ([mdelpino@corebaby.org](mailto:mdelpino@corebaby.org))