

Rising 11th Grade Summer 2026 Reading List
IB Literature HL, Year 1

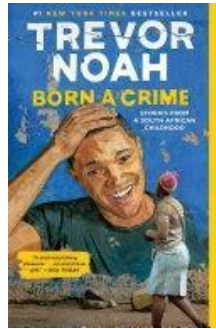
Teachers:

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Please purchase the hard copy of the following text. If you need assistance purchasing the text, please email Mrs. Mills at carla.mills@apsk12.org or Dr. Thompson at miathompson@apsk12.org.

***Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah (NOT the version adapted for young readers - sorry!)** Available at this [Amazon link](#).



Directions: Read the book carefully. ***In your own handwriting, on paper***, respond to the following questions ***for each chapter***:

- questions you have about the content
- reactions to the text (what are you thinking about the text at this point?)
- definitions for any concepts or terms you do not know (look them up)
- mark key passages - if the idea is compelling or seems important to you somehow
- personal thoughts/connections you make to the text

Additionally, write an *original* short summary of each chapter (4-6 sentences would be appropriate) ***on paper***. **YOU MAY NOT USE AI to write the chapter summaries for you; if you DO rely on any sources other than your own brain, those sources must be correctly quoted and cited using MLA format. Violations of this rule will be referred to administration for cheating.** Include in your summary the chapter number and title, any new characters introduced, the main idea of the chapter, any supporting points, and key details you believe to be important. Your summaries will be due on Day 1 of class (no exceptions). Late submissions will be penalized according to the school late work policy. **Hint:** write the summary right after reading the chapter, rather than trying to go back and write them all after reading the entire text. Pay attention to spelling; it matters.

Example response for Chapter 1, “Run,” in *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah:

Questions about the content:

Were there any other mixed race or black children at the white church? Any black or white children at the mixed church? Why did they have to go so far to church - were there not any churches in or near Eden Park?

Reactions to the text:

Trevor Noah is hysterical! Did all of this really happen as he describes it? Why would his mom subject her two children to minibuses, or hitchhiking, if it wasn't safe?

Definitions for any concepts or terms you do not know:

- Job: allusion to book in Bible about a man who was tested by God, losing everything, and still remained faithful
- Bhuti: term of address; polite title for man
- Nelson Mandela: allusion to ANC President who became South Africa's first democratically elected President after apartheid
- Tom and Jerry: allusion to an American cartoon about a contentious rivalry between a cat, Tom, and a mouse, Jerry.

Key passages:

Final paragraph of chapter (Noah 17)

"We had a very Tom and Jerry relationship . . ." (Noah 11) - entire paragraph

Personal thoughts/connections:

Trevor's whole childhood seemed consumed by church in one way or another
Trevor seemed to have been sheltered growing up
Patricia Noah worked hard to instill values in her son

Chapter 1 summary:

In the first chapter "Run" of Trevor Noah's memoir *Born a Crime*, Noah reflects on a dramatic experience where his mother threw him from a moving minibus to escape a threatening situation. The narrative also depicts how Trevor grew up in a deeply religious household with his mother, Patricia, and describes their habit of attending 3 churches every Sunday. Each different church had its own distinct cultural influences - together they reveal the complexities of faith and identity within his Black South African community. Noah describes the churches as follows: "Jubilant church was mixed church. Analytical church was white church. And passionate, cathartic church, that was black church" (6). The chapter shows the violent streets of Johannesburg, the systemic oppression of apartheid, and the fierce bond between mother and son (underscored by a shared resilience and humor).

Assessment: The assessment will be as follows:

- your chapter responses and summaries, which will be your first formative grade in the course; and
- a comprehension test administered during the first week of school, which will be your first summative grade in the course.

Remember: Do NOT use AI at all when doing this assessment. Your work must be handwritten on paper or it will not be accepted.