

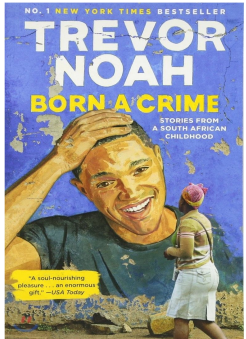
TPCASTT: Born a Crime

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Title Prediction

Born A Crime

- ① Actually born in prison
- ② Born to be a criminal (How he grows up and become a criminal)
- ③ Son of a criminal
ex) son of a gangster
- ④ A sad, crime-related story
- ⑤ Story of parents reflecting about their criminal son



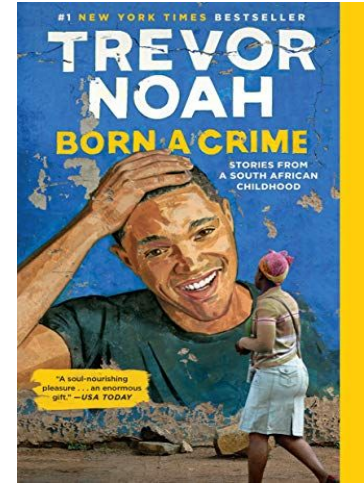
Paraphrasing

- Main character: Trevor Noah (Famous South African comedian)
- Story: Recalling his childhood memory in South Africa
- Background: When the Apartheid policy (racial segregation policy) was enacted in South Africa
- Noah's parents: Father (White), Mother (Black)
- He had confusion in his own identity all the time and didn't know which group to join in his school, his neighbourhood, and the Church.



Paraphrasing

- While he was struggling with his identity and the bad economic situations of the family, he tries hard to overcome them by illegally selling CDs to others, pilfering things from markets.
- At the end, he and his mom, Patricia, experiences conflict with Noah's stepfather Abel.
- Eventually, Patricia gets in danger by getting shot, but Noah, who became a successful comedian, pays all of her treatment cost and saves her.



Connotation

This is my
life....



***Born a Crime* is a story of combination of anecdotes:**

- Anecdotes are story about real experiences; in *Born a Crime* Trevor Noah shares his anecdotes that relates to the racial segregation
- By sharing the anecdotes, Trevor Noah was able to:
 - Help readers understand what problems and hardships that colored people are facing
 - Can communicate heavy subject like racism in a very comfortable and interesting way

Connotation

- Trevor's understanding of how racism impacts the power of individuals.
- Government encourages racism: it results in power struggle of colored and wealth gap between colored and non-colored.

“As a kid I understood that people were different colors, but in my head black and white and brown were like types of chocolate. Dad was the white chocolate, mom was the dark chocolate, and I was the milk chocolate. But we were all just chocolate.”(Noah 54).



“The genius of apartheid was convincing people who were the overwhelming majority to turn on each other. Apart from hate, is what it was. You separate people into groups and make them hate one another so you can run them all”(Noah 3).

- It uses the symbol of chocolate:
 - That all people are still humans but with different skin color.

Attitude

1. Direct

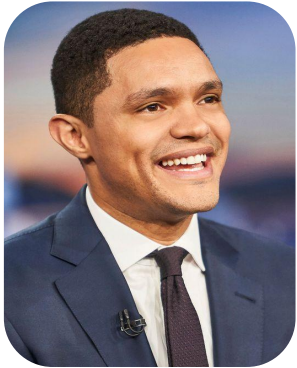
“It doesn’t matter. These people don’t speak English”, “Aw, f---”(Noah 66)

- Direct words → describe his life straightforward
- Doesn’t hide his life or emotions



Attitude

2. Informal



“My mom was the problem child, a tomboy, stubborn, defiant. My gran had no idea how to raise her”(Noah 64).



- Gran: informal word for grandmother
- Problem child, a tomboy, and stubborn: informal when describing his mother

Shift



- Conflict with the reality → Accepts the reality

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“As a kid I understood that people were different colors, but in my head black and white and brown were like types of chocolate. Dad was the white chocolate, mom was the dark chocolate, and I was the milk chocolate. But we were all just chocolate.”(Noah 54).

- Both shows his negative reaction or his struggle in understanding the reality of racism
- He was not trying to find a solution for the racial segregation, but he was rather wanted to refuse the reality

Shift



“... language, even more than color, defines who you are to people” (Noah 56).

“I became a chameleon. My color didn’t change, but I could change your perception of my color. If you spoke Zulu, I replied to you in Zulu. . . Maybe I didn’t look like you, but if I spoke like you, I was you” (Noah 56).

“I remember the thing that caused the trauma, but I don't hold on to the trauma. I never let the memory of something painful prevent me from trying something new” (Noah 90).

- He changes his mindset: he had a conflict with the reality of racial segregation → now he accepts and tries to find a way to overcome the reality

Title

Born A Crime



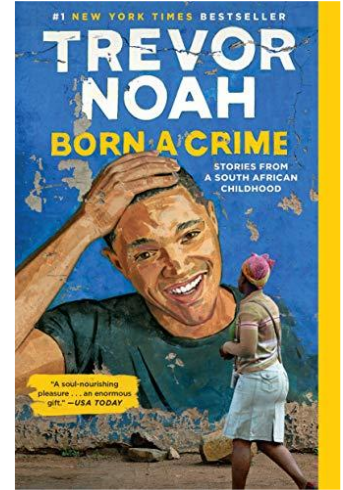
The first words the readers see

Symbol of his childhood & foreshadowing of his life after



Meaning of the title: His birth itself was a crime

- Trevor Noah was born during the apartheid in South Africa
- Interracial marriage was one of the worst crimes you could commit



Theme

Experience of Racism

Oppression

Segregation between two racial groups in society

“The ultimate goal of apartheid was to make South Africa a white country, with every black person stripped of his or her citizenship and relocated in the homelands” (Noah 23).



Wealth Gap

Restricted black people to live in poverty

“By law, white collar jobs and skilled-labor jobs were reserved for whites. Black people didn’t work in offices” (Noah 54).

Go beyond your limits



Theme

Identity Crisis

Living as colored person

*Unclear historical root
Lack sense of belonging*

“For all that black people have suffered, they know who they are. Colored people don't”(Noah 116).



Lack sense of community

“Social Class”

“I wasn't popular but I wasn't an outcast. I was everywhere with everybody, and at the same time I was all by myself” (Noah 141).

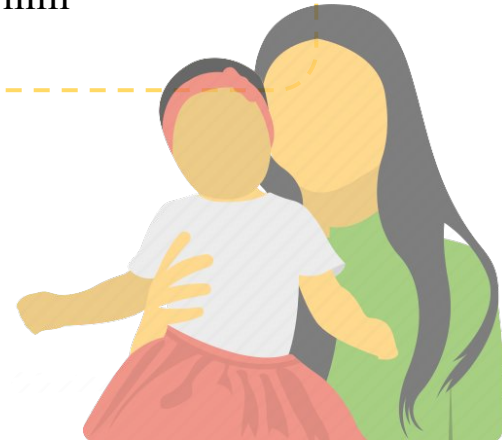
Theme

Motherly love

Defy Restriction

“Love is a creative act. When you love someone you create a new world for them. My mother did that for me, and with the progress I made and the things I learned, I came back and created a new world and a new understanding for her. After that, she never raised her hand to her children again” (Noah 262).

- Patricia was raised from a black family → she couldn't do all the things that she wanted to
- Patricia raises Trevor to defy the restrictions against him



Works Cited

Noah, Trevor. *Born a Crime*. Random House USA, 2017.