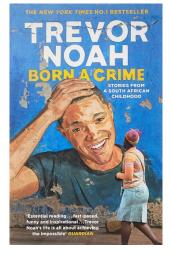


Born a Crime

By Trevor Noah



A collection of eighteen personal stories, *Born a Crime* tells the story of a mischievous young boy growing into a restless young man as he struggles to find his place in a world where he was never supposed to exist. *Born a Crime* is equally the story of that young man's fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother - a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence and abuse that ultimately threatens her own life.

The compelling, inspiring, (often comic) coming-of-age story of Trevor Noah, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you already know about apartheid? Did you learn anything new about it from the book?

2. 'Since I belonged to no group I learned to move seamlessly between groups. I was a chameleon, still, a cultural chameleon' (p.140). What are the benefits and costs of Noah's ability to adapt like a chameleon in different situations?

3. What aspects of Trevor's mother's parenting did you admire? Were there any aspects you didn't agree with?

4. How does Noah's relationship with his father compare with his relationship with his mother?

5. Post-apartheid South Africa was not an easy place to grow up. What are some of the challenges that Noah and his mother faced?

6. At the end of the book the full extent of Abel's abusive behaviour towards Noah and his mum is revealed. Why do you think Noah left this till the end of the book?

Thank you to Isobel for choosing this title and creating the resource.