

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (Part II)
To be discussed on Dec. 3

Chapter 8 – Robert

1. Trevor’s mom told him he should know his dad. Do you think it’s important? Why do you think it was important to her?

2. Trevor says that he’s a mixture of his mother (fire) and his father (ice). Give examples of how he resembles each of them.

3. What did Trevor’s dad show him when he visited? How did it make him feel?

Chapter 9 – The Mulberry Tree

4. In the introduction to this chapter, Trevor says that the history of colored people was worse than other groups in South Africa because they didn’t know who they were. Do you think it’s important to know your cultural history? Why/why not? Do you worry that the American melting pot will dilute your history?

5. Trevor felt like an outsider in all three neighborhoods. What is an occasion when you have felt like an outsider?

6. What made Trevor flip from thinking revenge was sweet to thinking it took him to a dark place?

Chapter 10 – Valentine’s Day

7. What was the result of Trevor’s first attempt at having a girlfriend?

Chapter 11 – Outsider

8. What arrangement did Trevor have at the tuck shop? How did it benefit him?

9. Trevor compared himself to a chameleon. How was he like a chameleon? How did he protect himself as an outsider?

Chapter 12 – The Crush

10. Trevor didn’t learn that Zahara had romantic feelings for him until after she had moved away. What do you think the outcome would have been if he had known earlier?

Chapter 13 – Colorblind

11. Why was Teddy arrested? How did Trevor avoid arrest? Should Trevor have confessed?

Chapter 14 – The Dance

12. How was Tom able to make his neighbors think Trevor was a famous American rapper?
13. How did Trevor get a date for the matric dance?
14. How did Trevor convince Abel to let him borrow his BMW for the dance?
15. How did he get clothes for the dance? What look was he trying to emulate? How was his hair styled?
16. Why was Trevor late to the dance?
17. Why did Babiki refuse to go into the dance?

General Question:

18. Trevor Noah's youth was marked by lying and petty crimes. What led to that? Was it excusable? Did those experiences contribute to his success as an entertainer?