



**ONE BOOK  
ONE NORTHBROOK**

**#1B1NORTHBROOK**

# **BORN A CRIME**

STORIES FROM  
A SOUTH AFRICAN  
CHILDHOOD



**JUNE 30-JULY 31**

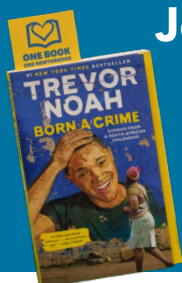


**NORTHBROOK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



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## Join us for the Kickoff Event!

Sunday, June 30 | 1:00-4:00pm  
Northbrook Public Library

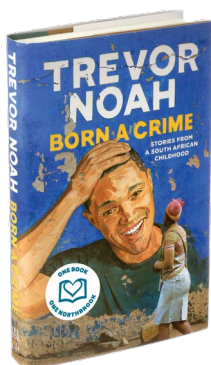
Attendees can pick up a free copy of  
the book, while supplies last.

This summer, we invite Northbrook to read *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah and then to come together for special community-wide programs around the book's themes throughout the summer.

Last September, library staff met with members of the Village's Community Relations Commission and other community members who were interested in the project to discuss book titles. We started with 76 suggested titles!

We worked with a number of community members and groups to make this project a success, including RAIN (Racial Awareness in the Northshore), the Village of Northbrook's Community Relations Commission, Glenbrook North High School, Glenbrook South High School, Columbia College, and The Book Bin.

In addition to our book discussions, we have many programs for you to enjoy that explore the themes of this year's book selection, including a musical performance, films, lectures, and even a humorist. We also invite you to visit our lobby from June 30 – July 31 to view pieces from Columbia College's Anti-Apartheid Movement collection. Learn more or reserve a spot at [www.northbrook.info/one-book](http://www.northbrook.info/one-book).



## About the Book

*Born a Crime* is a comedic autobiographical work chronicling Trevor Noah's childhood growing up in South Africa in the 1980s. Because Noah's mom is black, while his dad is white; under apartheid in South Africa, he was literally "born a crime." For much of Noah's memoir, he focuses on this idea of people being segregated, by force, or of their own volition. Noah's use of humor is an entry point for many to learn about difficult issues of identity and apartheid.

*"By turns alarming, sad and funny, [Trevor Noah's] book provides a harrowing look, through the prism of Mr. Noah's family, at life in South Africa under apartheid. . . . In the end, Born a Crime is not just an unnerving account of growing up in South Africa under apartheid, but a love letter to the author's remarkable mother."*

**—Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times**



## About the Author

Born in Soweto, South Africa in 1984, Trevor Noah has hosted numerous television shows and comedy specials. After Jon Stewart left The Daily Show, Trevor was chosen as his replacement, and has been hosting The Daily Show With Trevor Noah since September, 2015. This is Trevor Noah's first book.



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**RS=Reserve a spot.** A spot should be reserved for each member of a family or group planning to attend. To reserve a spot, call 847-272-6224 or visit [www.northbrook.info/events](http://www.northbrook.info/events).

**ADA Requests:** The library welcomes patrons of all abilities. Please call us at 847-272-6224 to reserve a spot at least 72 hours before the event.

## Adult Book Discussions

### One Book, One Northbrook Book Discussion

Librarian Lori Siegel leads a discussion of *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Visit the Fiction & Media desk to check out a copy of the book beginning one month before the program.

Thursday, July 11, 2:00-3:00pm,  
Pollak Room

### Books on Tap

*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah  
Visit the Fiction & Media desk to check out a copy of the book beginning one month before the program.

Wednesday, July 31, 7:00-8:30pm,  
Landmark Inn  
1352 Shermer Rd.

## Teen Book Discussions

### High School Book Discussion (Grades 9-12) **RS**

Enjoy your choice of Starbucks drink and discuss Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*. The first five high school students to register and check in at the YS desk will get a free copy of the book.

Tuesday, July 23, 7:00-8:15pm,  
Civic Room

### Books and Bites: Teen Book Discussion (Grades 6-8) **RS**

Enjoy your choice of drink and discuss Trevor Noah's *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* (adapted for young readers). The first seven teens to register and check in at the YS desk will get a free copy of the book.

Friday, July 26, 5:00-6:00pm,  
Civic Room

## Adult & Teen Programs

### **AACM Presents: The Sounds of South Africa & Beyond RS**

A South African-themed concert blending rock, jazz, and blues.

Sunday, June 30, 3:00–4:00pm,

Auditorium  FRIENDS  
of the Northbrook Library

### **Finding Your Funny Comedy Workshop (Grades 9-12) RS**

Humorist Arif Choudhury leads a workshop on developing comedy skills and shaping jokes to help bring people together.

Sunday, July 21, 1:30-2:30pm,

Pollak Room

### **More in Common Than You Think RS**

Humorist Arif Choudhury shares stories of growing up in one of the few Bangladeshi-Muslim immigrant families in Northbrook.

Sunday, July 21, 3:00-4:00pm,

Auditorium  FRIENDS  
of the Northbrook Library

### **The Identity Paradox: How Our Multiple Identities Both Divide and Unite Us RS**

Professor Judith Levi discusses our multi-faceted identities.

In partnership with RAIN.

Monday, July 22, 7:00-8:30pm,

Pollak Room

### **Chicago and Apartheid RS**

Northwestern University professor Ava Thompson Greenwell discusses Chicago's anti-apartheid movement.

Monday, July 29, 7:00-8:00pm,

Pollak Room

## Film Screenings

### **Loving Screening & Discussion RS**

The story of a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage led to the Supreme Court's landmark 1967 decision. Basil Clunie, Columbia College lecturer and Chicago anti-apartheid activist, will lead a discussion following the film.

Wednesday, July 10, 2:00pm,

Auditorium

Rated PG-13

### **You Laugh But It's True**

#### **Screening & Discussion RS**

Trevor Noah uses his childhood experiences as a biracial child during apartheid to prepare for his first one-man show.

Librarian Tracy Gossage will lead a discussion following the film.

Tuesday, July 16,

7:00pm, Auditorium

### **Sci-Fi/Fantasy Movie Night**

#### **District 9 RS**

The story of an extraterrestrial race forced to live in slum-like conditions on Earth. A discussion will follow the film. **Rated R**

Thursday, July 18,

7:00pm, Auditorium

## Youth Program

Celebrate Nelson Mandela's contribution to ending South African racial segregation with a special craft in his honor.

Thursday, July 18, 2019,

All Day, YS Department

## Sample Discussion Questions

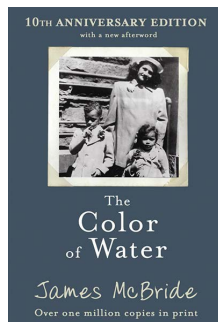
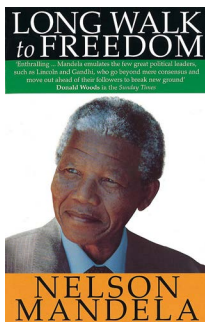
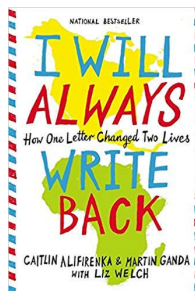
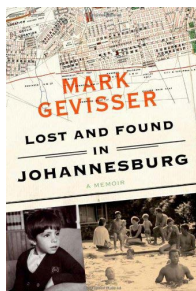
1. In *Born a Crime*, Noah seeks to dispel the myth that the ending of apartheid was bloodless. How much did you know about apartheid before reading this book, and what did you learn about the history of South Africa by reading Noah's story?
2. One of the most impressive characteristics that Noah conveys about his mother is her faith. How did Patricia's faith impact young Trevor, and what do you think has been the lasting impression of Patricia's faith on Trevor Noah's life?
3. Trevor Noah learned to speak six different languages growing up. What impressed you about the ways that Trevor and his mother navigate neighborhoods, cultures, and family; and how did language make that possible?
4. With all of the challenges Trevor faced growing up, he was gifted by his mother's assurance that he was always wanted and loved by both of his parents. Given that knowledge, how did issues of race play out in Noah's relationships with those closest to him—his mother, father, grandparents, and cousins?
5. How does Noah describe and wrestle with the issue of domestic violence?
6. Noah describes, with hilarious detail, an incident that happened when he was home alone with his great-grandmother (Koko) and didn't want to use the outhouse. Which incidents, friends, or family members described in *Born a Crime* are most memorable to you?
7. Noah and his mother lived in a variety of neighborhoods over the years. How does racial segregation affect the lives of young Trevor and his mother? What connections can you find identify between the challenges they faced and those faced by people living in poverty in racially segregated communities in the U.S. today?
8. Was there a lesson could be taken away from this person's life? What was it and why is it important?
9. What did you know about Trevor Noah before picking up this book? Did reading this book change your opinions of him? If so, how?

**Attention local book groups:** To learn how to get copies for your book group, visit the Fiction & Media Desk on the library's 3rd floor.





## Further Reading



## Young Adult

