



Addison Trail High School

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May 2026

Dear Advanced Placement Students:

Welcome to Advanced Placement English. We are looking forward to working with you during the 2025-2026 academic year. All students electing to take an AP English course are required to complete summer reading. The AP Language curriculum centers largely on nonfiction works, so we have selected an autobiography for you to read this summer. Reading the text and completing the accompanying assignment will help you begin to prepare for the AP exam in May 2026.

Step 1: Get a copy of this summer's reading selection, *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah – ISBN: 978-0-399-58819-8 (this number helps you search for the book). You can purchase a book online via Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or the bookstore of your choice. It is readily available in the Addison Public Library and the Addison Trail High School Library. **Please be certain your copy of the book is NOT the version that is adapted for young readers. You should be reading the original text and will need a printed book for class in August. No digital texts, please.**

Step 2: Read the book!

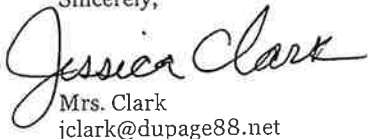
While Trevor Noah is best known as the former host of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, the most intriguing and challenging aspects of his life took place long before he became a famous comedian. Born in South Africa to a white European father and a black South African mother, Noah's very existence was the result of a criminal act violating the Immorality Act of 1927 in South Africa. His autobiography discusses his early life in South Africa living under apartheid and the early days of freedom after apartheid. Parts of his personal story are dark and other parts are quite hilarious. We hope you will enjoy this read!

Step 3: The Assignment We would like for you to do two things while you read:

- Annotate your book** (if you own your copy) or take two column notes (if you don't own your book): You should have notes from each chapter that highlight specific aspects of the text that stand out to you and are worthy of further discussion. You will be asked to use these notes during Socratic seminars early in the school year to guide you as you contribute to the conversation.
- Write a series of reader response journals.** You will complete three journals on the following topics:
 - After reading Part I of the text:** Select a passage that stood out to you and analyze it. Do NOT tell us what the passage is about. Instead, analyze why Noah included it, why it stood out to you, and what about the way it is written makes it particularly effective in conveying Noah's point. Cite the page number at the top of your journal and briefly summarize the passage in NO MORE THAN three (3) sentences at the beginning of your journal so we know what you are discussing.
 - After reading Part II of the text:** Select a significant quote from the text and **cite the page number**. Write about what the quote reveals about Trevor Noah or his mother and how it develops the theme(s) of the autobiography.
 - At the end of Part III:** Select one of the following themes and analyze its development throughout the text: masculinity, love, religion, role models, tradition, identity, education, discrimination, social class. Trace the theme you've selected throughout the three sections of the novel (in other words, make sure you have examples and evidence from all three sections in your discussion).

Each of your journal responses should be **minimally one page in length and written for an academic audience. Be sure to use 1" margins, Times New Roman, double space, 12 pt. font. The use of AI to complete or assist with this assignment is strictly prohibited.** Your work will be submitted via Turnitin.com on **Friday, August 28th**. Instructions for submission of your work will be provided by your teacher at the beginning of school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us using the email addresses listed below. Have a safe summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,


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Achieving The Highest Standards

