

English 1 Honors Summer Assignment 2022

Students registered for English 1 Honors are required to complete the following:

Read *Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

1. Take notes on the novel with a focus on the following areas:
 - Tone
 - How the author copes with the obstacles he faced
 - What stands out to you about the differences of life in South Africa v. life in the United States
 - Historical/cultural questions regarding post-Apartheid South Africa
 - Favorite quote/life lesson from the reading
 - Are you able to connect with any of the stories? If so, which ones?

**At the beginning of the year students will be assessed on the novel and notes may be used to aid in the assessment

Students are responsible for obtaining the book. If this is a problem, please email Ms. Scott at lscott@bhpsnj.org, prior to June 14th, and she will arrange for you to borrow a copy.

Reading some of the following texts, in addition to *Born a Crime*, would be beneficial.

All You Can Ever Know by Nicole Chung. “What does it mean to lose your roots—within your culture, within your family—and what happens when you find them? Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From early childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hopes of giving her a better life; that forever feeling slightly out of place was simply her fate as a transracial adoptee. But as she grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn’t see, finding her identity as an Asian American and a writer, becoming ever more curious about where she came from—she wondered if the story she’d been told was the whole truth.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30297153-all-you-can-ever-know>

The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow “Sydney Taylor Award-winning novel *Berlin Boxing Club* is loosely inspired by the true story of boxer Max Schmeling's experiences following Kristallnacht. “

<https://www.amazon.com/Berlin-Boxing-Club-Robert-Sharenow/dp/006157970X>
The Dark City by Catherine Fischer.)

Discovering Wes Moore by Wes Moore “The story of two fatherless boys from Baltimore, both named Wes Moore. One is in prison, serving a life sentence for murder. The other is a Rhodes Scholar, an army veteran, and an author whose book is being turned into a movie.”

<https://www.amazon.com/Discovering-Wes-Moore/dp/0385741685>.)

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas. “In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on *Bowling for Dollars* and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.”

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46349.Funny_in_Farsi?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=DEjGoiXrRt&rank=1

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou “Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.”

<https://www.amazon.com/Know-Why-Caged-Bird-Sings/dp/0345514408>.)

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman? By Eleanor Updale When a petty thief falls through a glass roof while fleeing from the police, it should have been the death of him. Instead, it marks the beginning of a whole new life. Soon he has become the most successful -- and elusive -- burglar in Victorian London, plotting daring raids and using London's new sewer system to escape. He adopts a dual existence to fit his new lifestyle, taking on the roles of a respectable, wealthy gentleman named Montmorency and his corrupt servant, Scarper.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/638603.Montmorency>.)

On the Devil's Court by Carl Deuker “What would you give to be your school's superstar? After reading Dr. Faustus, Joe considers the merits of selling his soul to the devil. Suddenly, he finds himself changing from a lousy basketball player and a C student to the star athlete he always dreamed he could be. Even though he isn't sure if he actually made a deal with the devil, he can't help but enjoy the benefits that come with his newfound abilities. But is achieving his dreams worth what he may have given up?”

(<https://www.amazon.com/Devils-Court-Carl-Deuker/dp/031606727X>.)

Orchards by Holly Thompson “After a classmate commits suicide, Kana Goldberg—a half-Japanese, half-Jewish American—wonders who is responsible. She and her cliquey friends said some thoughtless things to the girl. Hoping that Kana will reflect on her behavior, her parents pack her off to her mother's ancestral home in Japan for the summer. There Kana spends hours under the hot sun tending to her family's *mikan* orange groves.”

(<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/orchards-holly-thompson/1100290973>.)

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid. “At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter... Changez is living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by an elite valuation firm. He thrives on the energy of New York, and his budding romance with elegant, beautiful Erica promises entry into Manhattan society at the same exalted level once occupied by his own family back in Lahore. But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned, and his relationship with Erica shifting. And Changez's own identity is in seismic shift as well, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.”

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40961543-the-reluctant-fundamentalist?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=8B4iJ5LqJT&rank=2)

Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall “As the oldest of eight siblings, Lupita is used to taking the lead-and staying busy behind the scenes to help keep everyone together. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit Mexican American family.”

(<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/under-the-mesquite-guadalupe-garcia-mccall/1100400441>.)

When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago “Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the barrio to Brooklyn, from translating for her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard.”

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25419.When_I_Was_Puerto_Rican.)