

June 2021

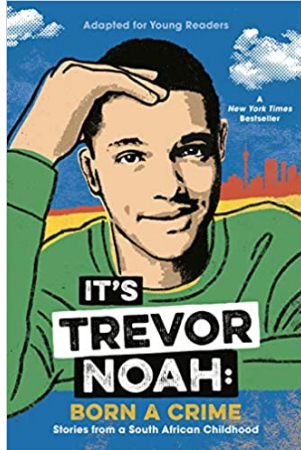
Dear Vermont Commons School Community,

We are excited to announce the Common Texts for 2021! This year, students will read one text about equity and any two texts from the provided lists. Students going into sixth through ninth grades will read *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* (Adapted for Young Readers). Students entering tenth through twelfth will read Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*. Besides being written beautifully, both books question racial equity, financial equity, structural racism, identity formation, and relationships. We will be considering global responsibility and community building as we discuss stories from South Africa. We have decided to drop *Another Brooklyn*. Our apologies for making a change so quickly.

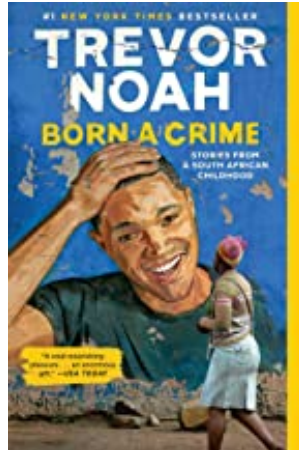
Common Texts

You are expected to purchase your own copy (or use the library), but we have a few extras. Please email Ryan if you need one.

6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades read:



10th, 11th, and 12th grades read:



ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment One

All students:

Respond to your book in a 300-word personal reflection. You may use “I.” You can use the following questions to spark your thinking:

1. What do you like or dislike about the book?
2. What did you learn from this book?
3. How does the author's style influence the message you take from the book?
4. What surprised you?

You must have at least one short quotation with a page number.

Due to your English teacher on the first day of classes.

In the first week of classes, we will have a reading-group lunch. Sitting at small tables, we will discuss the Common Text of your group. Please bring your copy of the book and quotations to share.

Assignment Two

Grades 6-11: Read any two texts from the [VCS list](#) or the [Piedmont Unified School's list](#). We have Piedmont's permission and chose their list because of the breadth, contemporary texts, and book descriptions. The VCS list is divided into middle school fiction and non-fiction, and high school fiction and non-fiction. During the first week of classes, students will take quizzes on their two books.

Seniors will be expected to read at least two novels from their chosen author, in preparation for Single Author Study.

Last Thoughts:

Contact either Ryan Houck if you would like to read a book that is not on the lists instead of one of these. Students who are accepted to VCS late in the summer, please contact Ryan Houck for an explanation of what will be required.

Please feel free to email Ryan Houck with any questions, and enjoy your summer reading.

The VCS English Department,

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