**Born a Crime, Chapters 12-16**

1. What is the overall theme of chapter 12 in Born a Crime and how is it explored through the relationship between Trevor and Zaheera?

1. In your own words, describe stylistically what is going on in the quotation below and the effect of it:

‘We were talking one afternoon at school and I asked, “Can I get your phone number? Maybe I can call you and we can talk at home sometime.” She said yes, and my mind exploded. *What???!!!! A girl I giving me her phone number???!!! This is insane!!! What do I do??!!* I was so nervous. I’ll never forget her telling me the digits one by one as I wrote them down, trying to keep my hands from shaking.’ (p. 148)

1. Chapter 13 is called ‘Colorblind’ – why?

1. Describe the episode with Teddy and Trevor. Use the following quotation to substantiate your point: “These people had been so fucked up by their own construct of race that they could not see that the white person they were looking for was sitting right in front of them” (page. 159)
2. How does Trevor Noah explain the seemingly absurd name of Hitler? And through that, what does he indirectly tell the reader about South Africa?
3. What does it mean to be a ’cheese boy’ and what are the social consequences of being a ‘cheese boy’ in the poor areas?

1. What kind of a place is Alex and what significance did it have in Trevor’s life?

1. Read the following quotation:

“The hood made me realize that crime succeeds because crime does the one thing the government doesn’t do: crime cares. Crime is grassroots. Crime looks for the young kids who need support and a lifting hand. Crime offers internship programs and summer jobs and opportunities for advancement. Crime gets involved in the community. Crime doesn’t discriminate.” (p. 209)

This sounds provocative, but does Noah have a point to you? Make at least two arguments for and against.

1. According to Noah, what are the upsides and downsides of living in the hood?
2. Explain the following joke in your own words:

‘I’d always wonder, *why do American cops bother lying*? One thing I appreciate about South Africa is that we have not yet refined the system to the point where we feel the need to lie.

“Do you know why I pulled you over?”
“Because you’re a policeman and I’m a black person?”

“That’s correct. License and registration, please.” ‘(p.229)