

Dear Incoming Freshman Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Bettendorf High School staff strives to instill the love of reading for pleasure as well as accountability. In addition, the state of Iowa recommends that every student read a minimum of twenty-five books a year. As of 2007, Bettendorf High School has required incoming general sophomores to read one selected text and honors students to read two. This year all students will read the same text: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, and the honors students will also read *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore

In the past, students completed on-line reading forms over the books, but we have changed that requirement. This year, students will use the books for discussion and reference in class whether at the beginning or throughout the course. Students will be held accountable for the reading, thus they should take some type of notes for reference.

These texts can be obtained at:

- Public libraries
- Major book sellers (Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million (BAM), etc.)
- **Also, BHS will have copies of each title available for checkout at the beginning of June in the main office on a first-come, first-serve basis. We ask that you return them as soon as possible, so other students may check them out.** *The funding for this activity was originally awarded by the Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA).*

If you have any questions, please call the high school at 332-7001. Thank you in advance for encouraging and supporting your student through the summer reading requirement.

Happy Reading!

The Bettendorf High School
Language Arts Department

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (304 pages)

“The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle” (goodreads.com).

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore, Tavis Smiley (Afterword) (233 pages)

Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation” (goodreads.com).