

Artist Statement

In *Born a Crime* a big part of Trevor Noah's story was about his teenage years. When we first started writing this memoir I knew right away that I wanted to tell a story of being a part of the middle child culture. Except I didn't know what story to tell. I knew I wanted my memoir to be humorous like Trevor. I liked the way Trevor wrote *Born a Crime*, it feels like whatever came to his head he wrote. It was like a conversation and that is how I wanted my memoir to be. Being that a big part of Trevor's story is of his teenage years and I am at the beginning of mine, that is the connection.

Although he is the oldest child, him navigating through life, making money, being new to many things shows a little of my brother's perspective on things. Reading how Trevor started making money and his life after high school was different for me. He didn't go to school after high school, he would hang out with Bongani and make pirate CDs and then sell them. I know that after high school I want to go to a college. I know that I want to study to be a nurse or a lawyer. I am more prepared than my brother in a sense where the mistakes he has made I know not to make when I get to the same place as him.

In telling my story I used a little of onomatopoeia, some humor/shade, and I also tried pausing for comments of mine. I did use some humor/shade like Trevor Noah. When people describe their point of view of a middle child it is mostly a negative thing. When people describe their point of view of the oldest child it is mostly positive things. I tried to pick a positive trait of being the middle child and threw some shade to the oldest child.

To explain to an outsider the culture of being the middle child I used my brother who is the oldest child. I described how being a middle child isn't all those negative things people usually say. How I learned something, what I learned, from a mistake that I did not do. How we are more prepared for situations in life that the oldest child also went through.