THEMES AND IDEAS

RACISM AND POVERTY

Is a major theme in the Novel. Trevor grew up in South Africa as a son of black mother and white father. His life and his mother’s life is defied by negative attitudes about their skin color.

The South Africa government build barriers between different tribes, who spoke different languages and had different cultures. The apartheid laws were designed to ensure that nonwhites remain too poor and poverty. Due to poverty, there were no transportation means, confining each tribe to its territory.

IDENTITY, BELONGING AND COMMUNITY

The genius of apartheid was convincing people to turn on each other, hate one another so that they can rule them all. Race mixing proves that mixed people rebuke to the logic of the system hence become a crime worse than treason.

Under apartheid, the identity was defined according to race. The system failed to categorize Trevor Noah as black or white, and so his existence was a biracial man reveals the underlying flaws in the system’s conception of race. Trevor also had to cope with apartheid diving the world and people continuing after apartheid to divide themselves based on race.

But existence as a mixed race South Africa proves the system’s illogical foundation. Noah manages to find a sense of belonging in the world without clinging to any particular group or identity label.

EDUCATION

The South Africa government only taught the black population what they were supposed to know and do.If the black tribes had read about Gandhi’s Salt March or role as a political activist in South Africa, things might have turned out differently.

*British racism said, “If monkey can walk like a man and talk like a man, then perhaps he is a man.” African racism said, “Why give a book to a monkey? Why educate a slave? Why teach someone Latin when his only purpose I to dig holes in around?”*

After Mandela’s liberation, education was now available to everyone. Though tha did not

Improve poor people’s life. Some apartheid wondered: now that they access to education, who don’t they strive? Doesn’t it prove we, Afrikaners, were right?

LOVE AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Trevor’s mother is as serious about disciplining him as she is about going to church; initially, she seems severe and even jarring, willing to go to any length to ensure that Trevor learns his lesson. She has no qualms about treating him the same in public as she does in private, but he clearly learns from her discipline to run, just as he has learned to practically memorize the Bible.

Noah’s memoir is in large part an ode to his mother, Patricia, whose fearlessness and sense of purpose he largely credit with his eventual success. Since they grow up together, just the two of them, Noah long consider himself and his mother a team.

Being raised by women and largely confined to the house profoundly shapes Trevor’s views on community, to which he sees family as central, and violence, which he sees as destructive and best replaced with love.

Patricia expresses her love for Trevor by showing him possibilities his peers cannot see; she succeeding, this expanded sense of possibility is its own reward because it allows him the kind of perspective that would never be available to someone who went their life trapped in Soweto.

Patricia’s tactics are clever and creative ways to teach Trevor lessons; the episode with the toffee apple reminds him about people’s prejudices and the way white strangers will treat people who look like him, The letters are a way of furthering his education and teaching him to resolve conflicts through thoughtful deliberation rather than argument.

RELIGION AND HUMOR

Noah’s mother’s turn to Christianity is difficult to understand and perfectly logical .It was difficult because she was adopting the same ideology used to justify oppressing her, but it is logical because religion offers her a means of coping with that oppression.

The comically hyperbolic fact that she takes Trevor to three churches in tandem every Sunday suggests that she is much more devout than most white people, but also seriously disciplined and comfortable traversing the racial fault lines of divide South Africa.

The white church shows the centrality of education in the white culture that enjoys the privilege to access it, which also points to how surprising it is for Trevor to ask Bile questions the more advantaged white kids at the church. In contrast, the black church shows how suffering and poverty and poverty are defining features of black’ experiences under apartheid.

Africa also clearly interpret Christianity in a distinctive way, including how Trevor’s mother considered blessing and prayers something of a tit-for-tat transaction.

IMMORALITY

The immorality Act is significant because it is the precise reason Trevor Noah was “born a crime”. By outlawing sex between people of different races, the act prevents mixed race people who might help bridge the social gap between them from being born.

Trevor more explicitly summarizes the motivations behind laws like the Immorality Act: he clearly implies that South Africa’s nonwhite’s majorities could take power back from the tiny white minority if they were united, whereas “divide and conquer” focuses them on minor intra racial differences instead of the big picture of white supremacy.

The division between the Zulu and Xhosa parallels a set of opposing attitudes Trevor sees throughout the book in dealing with apartheid and racism: he can either openly resist the system and mark his territory through force, or instead more quietly subvert the system and think his way out of confrontations.