

## Jacket Memoir

It was a rainy spring day when I was released from school at the usual time of 3:00 pm. I had talked with two of my friends in front of the school and we decided to walk down to the nearby park just because it was something to do besides go home or just stand around. So we made our way down to the park and talked a bit about the biggest topic in the world at the time: COVID-19. Covid was becoming a bigger and bigger deal. It was mentioned a few times in school a couple weeks ago, then some more times, then it spread in the U.S., and at this point teachers were telling us they might shut down schools real soon. It was fair to say it was a good topic of discussion. No one in our school had covid, but shutting schools down would probably be good as it would keep it that way.

We finally reached the park and ended up mostly just sitting around on our phones the whole time, as it was raining and there wasn't much to do. After maybe half an hour I decided to go home. Once I reached my destination I realized a mistake I had made. I had left my rain jacket at the park. I checked my phone and saw my friend had texted me saying he had picked it up and would give it back soon. "Phew, that was a close one." I remember thinking to myself. "I had almost lost my jacket,". I then and continued on with my day.

The next day I got to school and my friend forgot to bring me my rain jacket which neither of us thought was a big deal. "He can just give it to me some other time soon." In class, our science teacher told us about COVID and what might happen with schools and cases in the near future. To be honest, schools shutting down didn't seem like the worst thing at the time. A deadly disease like covid didn't sound like good news to me, but getting a week or two off of school responsibilities while in the process keeping people safe from the virus did seem like it might not be so bad. It would be like a small intermission. So we were all about 50% sure the schools were going to shut down, but not 100%. As I said goodbye to my friend that day I told him, "You can just give me the jacket tomorrow or after all the covid stuff if schools shut down." Which made sense because my friend doesn't live so close to me.

I woke up the next morning and found out schools hadn't shut down but they weren't counting absences and only about 5 people were going to school. Not to mention I woke up with a cough that morning which I knew wasn't covid related but I didn't want anyone else to think it was. I didn't go to school that day either. Soon afterwards schools shut down for "two weeks," which extended to a month, which extended to "we don't know when it ends, we'll let you know."

After a month or two of sitting inside to stay away from the virus, I started to reflect on my reaction to the jacket situation a lot. "If I knew what was about to happen" I would joke. But it still took me a while to get that jacket back.

### Artist statement:

Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime* influenced my memoir in multiple ways. One impact it had was the ways Trevor would write about time, days, and his school experiences. He

would write about the important and interesting events, then write about his thoughts, then would continue on to get to the interesting points again. I definitely tried to replicate the ways he would do this, specifically the way he wrote about school days, in my memoir, and I think it ended up making my memoir more interesting to read through.

Noah's writing style definitely impacted the way I wrote in this memoir as well. The way he would cut up the story at points to add a bit of his own opinion/personality through a little quote or something seemed like a good idea to add to my own memoir if I was to do something similar. So I then tried to add the same thing, but not as a way to add an element like humor, and more as a way to add context to my thoughts and understanding of the situation at time that the story is taking place. This is because I'm trying to get my point/story through with a lot less words than Trevor Noah has with his book.

My memoir did explain the culture of covid 19 to an outside audience. I did this by showing how I felt about covid when it started up, then writing about how it became a much bigger deal. I also explained how it was a virus and the public's view on it. This should be all the information anyone would need to know about covid "culture" if they didn't live through it.