Chapter Summaries

3 & 4

Chapter 3: Trevor, Pray

* **Setting**: Soweto, when Trevor was around 5 years old
* **Narrator**: Trevor Noah
* Introduction of Trevor’s Grandfather, Temperance Noah, a ladies man
  + Had a second family that Trevor and his mother visited on occasion
  + Mother believed they wanted to poison them
* Great grandmother, Koko, was completely blind and only moved from the bed to the stove during the day. She had long conversations with Gran, but one word conversations with Trevor
* Prayer meetings consisted of women and children hosted at rotating houses
* Bought food and build houses only a little at a time dependent on what one could afford
* Everyone had driveways, but few had cars (symbolizes Soweto as a hopeful place)
* Communal Toilets were always located outside of the house
* When Trevor was 5, and his mother and grandmother were out, he decided to poop into newspaper and throw it out to avoid going to the toilet
  + Koko was the only one to witness this, but being blind made her terrified of the noise and smell
  + His grandmother and mother believed it was a demon that left the poop
  + Neighbors came to help pray away the demon

Chapter 4: Chameleon

* **Setting**: Soweto, Maryvale College, H. A. Jack Primary
* **Narrator**: Trevor Noah
* Trevor was the only “non-black” resident in Soweto
* Mother believed in the power that knowing different languages gave you
  + She believed English gave you a leg up in getting a job
* Trevor and his mother both used language to get out of potentially harmful situations
  + Being accused of intent to steal
  + Almost being mugged
* When they spoke others languages people would accept them as a friend rather than a stranger
* Maryvale College had no racial separation and everyone got along with each other
* H. A. Jack primary Trevor was put into the A class with the “smarter” children.
  + This class had a majority of white children
* When on the playground Trevor did not know whether to choose to play with the children from his class or all of the black children from the B class
* Met a friend named Theesan Pillay (Indian boy) who found out about Trevor’s knowledge of language and brought him to show everyone in the B class that he would know their language
* Trevor talked to the counselor and switched to the B class