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Naturally Seen as Less

Most want to be considered equal and be seen as them, not for their race. In Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* and *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, they share their stories on how they were put into the shadows. The two both had been in very unjust situations where the result is children being looked at like they drink a bottle of vodka a day or not being able to play outside. Being a different race or color leads individuals to act unjustly because they can create unfair stereotypes causing them to feel superior.

Having a different backstory than 'normal kids' growing up can alter how people look at you. Alexie had been on his high school's basketball team and was playing a match. During the game Alexie had passed out his, "white friends revived [him] and prepared to take [him] to the emergency room where doctors would later diagnose my diabetes, the Chicano teacher ran up to us. "Hey," he said. "What's that boy been drinking? I know all about these Indian kids. They start drinking real young" (Alexie). This is an injustice because the teacher assumes that since he was a Native American kid they assumed that they started drinking young, because of a stigma that is attached to Native Americans. It does not help that most adults on the reservation have drinking problems. The teacher was being unjust to Alexie because of where he came from even though Alexie had an underlying medical condition.

Next is Trevor Noah's tale. Trevor Noah was born mixed where his dad was white and his mom black. Him living in South Africa and during the apartheid had set him up for a world of

hurt. When Noah had been at his grandmother's house he was hidden away like an embarrassing baby picture. Noah's, "grandmother refused to let [him] outside. If she was watching [him] it was, 'No, no, no. He doesn't leave the house.' Behind the wall, in the yard, [he] could play, but not in the street" (Noah). Noah was unable to go play outside on the street with his cousins and other kids his age just because he was lighter. His grandmother was trying to protect Noah, and try not to get him taken away because of the apartheid. If Noah was caught then he would have been taken away and sent to an orphanage. His mother was not allowed to have him and his dad was not allowed to have made him. Even though she was just trying to keep him safe, and their family together it had ruined any chances at a normal childhood for Noah.

Being different had changed both Sherman Alexie and Trevor Noah's whole life experiences due to stingy people. Alexie and Noah had been treated and seen unjustly. Growing up, like most kids, had only wanted a normal childhood, but that could not happen due to who they were. Growing up on a reservation for Alexie had people look at him as if he were Sacagawea. Noah was cast into the shadows due to his father being swiss causing him to be light. For Trevor Noah and Sherman Alexie, a different race or color lead individuals to act unjustly to them since the stereotypes that stalks them.

Work Cited

Alexie, Sherman. *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. PGW, 2013.

Noah, Trevor. *Born a Crime*. John Murray(Publishers), 2017.