**A Footnote, a Book and a Web Citation**

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**The Life of Malcolm X; PART I**

**As a boy**

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. His father, a Baptist minister, was an outspoken follower of Marcus Garvey (1887–1940), the Black Nationalist leader. Garvey supported a "back-to-Africa" movement for African Americans. During Malcolm's early years, his family moved several times because of racism. They moved from Omaha, Nebraska, after being threatened by the Ku Klux Klan. While living in an all-white neighborhood in Michigan their house was burned. When Malcolm was six years old, his father was mysteriously murdered. The black community was convinced that white people had committed the crime. White people also murdered three of Malcolm’s four uncles.

By the 1930s the nation had fallen into the Great Depression, a decade-long period of great economic hardship. Work was scarce, and Malcolm's family struggled. For a time his mother and her eight children lived on public welfare. When his mother became mentally ill, Malcolm was sent to a foster home. His mother remained in a mental institution for about twenty-six years. The children were divided among several families, and Malcolm lived in various state institutions and boardinghouses. At thirteen Malcolm was charged with delinquency and was sent to a juvenile detention home. He dropped out of school at the age of fifteen.