

QUESTIONS ABOUT  
*BORN A CRIME*  
*Part 1*

Trevor Noah has written this memoir about growing up in South Africa. It is as much about Trevor's mother as it is about him. Questions run from page 1 to page 100.

**Immorality Act, 1927**

1. What does the Immorality Act forbid? What does "illicit" mean? Is this enforceable?
2. What is "the genius of apartheid"? Can you name any other countries where this technique has ever been practiced (perhaps more subtly)?

**Run**

3. Did Trevor or his mother believe in Jesus? Support your conclusions.
4. Why was the minibus driver angry? What was Trevor's mother's solution?
5. Why did South Africa need cheap labor? How was the labor force controlled?

**Born a Crime**

6. How did Trevor's mother live in Johannesburg where blacks weren't allowed?
7. Who was Trevor's father? How did Trevor and his father manage their relationship? Why was this necessary?
8. What is the black South African's view on witchcraft? Is this hard to defend against?

**Trevor, Pray**

9. Describe Trevor's grandfather on his mother's side.
10. Describe Sibongile and Dinky, Trevor's aunt and uncle.
11. Describe Soweto.

**Chameleon**

12. Trevor says his punishment was like that of American justice. Explain. Do you agree?

13. How was speaking several languages useful to Trevor? Have you had either failures or successes due to your own command of English (or any other language)?

### **The Second Girl**

14. Why did Trevor's mother run away to Johannesburg?
15. What did they buy when they moved to Eden Park that changed their lives?
16. What three things did Trevor receive no matter what sacrifice was necessary? Do you believe this has changed the direction of his life?
17. How did Trevor's mother try to minimize cultural limitations for Trevor?

### **Loopholes**

18. How did Trevor and his mother communicate when he was seven? Why?
19. Trevor was often beaten for misbehaving. Is this an effective punishment? Explain.
20. Why and when did Trevor break rules? Do you agree with his logic?
21. Tell how Trevor burned down a house. Do you believe he was responsible?
22. In spite of punishment, Trevor always broke rules. Why? Do you agree with him?

### **Fufi**

23. Fufi was a dog. Why did Fufi appear stupid?
24. Trevor tells how he discovered that Fufi lived with another family in addition to his own. What moral does Trevor make of this discovery? Do you agree with Trevor?

### **General Question (No Chapter)**

25. Trevor Noah now hosts the Daily Show, satirical news on Comedy Central. He performs at the Chase Center in San Francisco December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are roughly \$50 to \$100. Knowing about his South African upbringing (especially discussion questions 16 and 17), is it surprising that he has become a famous American personality? Explain.