



Born a crime: stories from a South African childhood (2016)

By Trevor Noah

(New York Times Best Seller + many other awards)



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Discussion questions taken from *Clarington Public Library*

1. Discuss the role of religion in Trevor's family's life. Why did he and his mother attend so many services and what did they get from each? How do Trevor and his mother view the importance of religion?
2. How and why does Trevor's mother change her parenting style with Trevor's younger brother?
3. How does witchcraft figure into South African society and belief systems?
4. Trevor compares apartheid with Catholic school, both authoritarian and ruthless. In what ways is this true in the book?
5. How does Patricia, Trevor's mom, challenge Trevor to think for himself and stand up for himself?
6. How is Trevor like a chameleon? Why does he do this?
7. Discuss Trevor's relationship with his father. Does Trevor feel good about it?
8. How is Trevor's step-father abusive? Why won't the police take a report about it?
9. Discuss the role of the police in South Africa and this book.
10. What lessons in love does Trevor learn in this book?
11. A notable relationship in *Born a Crime* is between young Trevor and his dog, Fufi. What parallels might be drawn between the way Noah describes his dog Fufi and how he describes himself in his childhood and youth?
12. A prominent character in this memoir is Noah's stepfather, Abel. The name "Abel" recalls the biblical character in the book of Genesis, but his stepfather's Tsonga name, Ngisaveni, means "Be afraid." Those two names would turn out to be indicative of his stepfather's public and private personas. How does Noah describe and wrestle with the issue of domestic violence?

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Author Bio:



Trevor Noah (born February 20, 1984) is a South African comedian, television host, producer, writer, political commentator, and actor. He is the host of *The Daily Show*, an American satirical news program on Comedy Central.

Born in Johannesburg, Noah began his career as a comedian, television host, and actor in South Africa in 2002. He has since had several hosting roles with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and was the runner-up in the fourth season of South Africa's iteration of *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2008. From 2010 to 2011, he acted as the creator and host of the late-night talk show *Tonight with Trevor Noah*, which aired on M-Net and DStv.

After his stand-up comedy career attained international success, Noah began appearing on American late-night talk shows and English panel shows. In 2014, Noah became the Senior International Correspondent for *The Daily Show*, and the following year, he succeeded long-time host Jon Stewart, and is set to remain in this position until 2022. His autobiographical comedy book *Born a Crime* was published in 2016 and garnered critical acclaim.

Noah has received various accolades, including a Primetime Emmy Award win from nine nominations. He was named one of "The 35 Most Powerful People in New York Media" by *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2017 and 2018. In 2018, *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

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