**Questions for Chapters 4-7:**

1. A) So far in this autobiography, the reader has been introduced to several metaphors and similes. Which of the following phrases is a metaphor and which is a simile? Explain how you can see it.

“The Xhosa played chess with the white man”

“Like the gazelle runs from the lions, I ran”

“Imagine being thrown out of an airplane”

“I became a chameleon”

“It was an ocean of black, like someone had opened a tap and all the black had come pouring out”

B) What is the difference in effect between the simile and the metaphor?

1. Noah is known for using ‘Dark Humor’. What does it mean? What is the effect? Find a couple of examples in the text to exemplify his use of dark humor.
2. A theme of language seems to be reoccurring throughout this autobiography. What is the importance of language to Noah and to South Africa as a nation?
3. Read the following paragraph:

“Where South Africa’s white countryside was lush and irrigated and green, the black lands were overpopulated and overgrazed, the soil depleted and eroding. Other than the normal menial wages sent home from the cities, families scraped by with little beyond subsistence-level farming. My mother’s aunt hadn’t taken her in out of charity. She was there to work. “I was one of the cows,” my mother would later say, “one of the oxen.” She and her cousins were up at half past four, plowing fields and herding animals before the sun baked the soil as hard as cement and made it too hot to be anywhere but in the shade. “ (Noah, p. 65, ll. 4-12)

1. Identify five adjectives and write down their positive, comparative and superlative forms.

B. Divide the text into main clauses and subordinate clauses. What defines a main clause and what defines a subordinate clause?

1. How does Noah describe his own tendencies to get into trouble?

1. What is Patricia Noah’s process like when her son needs to be disciplined? Does this strike you as being common in South Africa at this time?

1. On pages 82-83 there is a series of letter correspondences between Trevor and Patricia. What is the effect of their inclusion, and do they tell you something about these two people?
2. What does the episode about the black cats in Chapter 7 tell you about black culture in South Africa at the time?

1. What is the significance of Fufi to Trevor’s life? Does it symbolize something?