

## Questions to Consider

1. What is the significance of the full title of Equiano's *Narrative*?
2. What is the significance of the two original illustrations in Equiano's *Narrative*, especially his frontispiece portrait?
3. What identity or identities does Equiano claim? African? American? European? How would you identify him?
4. Describe the audience Equiano addresses in his *Narrative*.
5. Why does Equiano write so much about Africa?
6. How important is literacy to Equiano?
7. How would you describe Equiano's position in his *Narrative* on slavery? Ameliorationist? Emancipationist?
8. How would you compare Equiano's position on slavery in his *Narrative* to that in his public letter to James Tobin?
9. Why do most historians and many literary critics read and teach only the first two chapters of Equiano's *Narrative*.
10. How does Equiano justify his involvement with the slave trade for years after he is freed?
11. What arguments does Equiano use against the transatlantic slave trade and/or slavery?
12. Which do you think would have been most effective?
13. Is there a specific point at which Equiano turns against the transatlantic slave trade and/or slavery?
14. What significant turning point or points in Equiano's autobiography can you identify?
15. How does Equiano use literary allusions in chapter 5?
16. To what extent is Equiano's autobiography a slave narrative? To what extent is it a spiritual autobiography? How would you categorize his *Narrative*?
17. How does the way we categorize Equiano's autobiography influence the way we read and teach it?

18. What is the evidence that Equiano was born in Africa? What is the evidence that he was born somewhere else? How significant is his place of birth? What is at stake in the question of where he was born?
19. Why does Equiano devote so much of his autobiography to his life after he was freed?
20. To what extent is Equiano's *Narrative* a work of its times? To what extent is it a timeless work?
21. To what extent is Equiano a self-made man?