



Name: _____

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the setting of the story? Describe where it takes place.

2. What does the following simile tell us about the people in William’s village: “In the evenings they sat around the lantern and ate their handful, watching hungry people pass like spirits along the roads?”

3. Explain why people in William’s village in Malawi began to starve.

4. Why did William have to drop out of school? How did he feel about this?

5. How did the library help William feel better after he could no longer go to school?

6. What are two character traits of William, explain how you know this:

a.

b.

7. Explain what the author means when he says, "The windmill was more than a machine, it was a weapon to fight hunger."

8. What does William use to build his windmill? What does this tell us about his character?

9. What do William's neighbors think about his windmill ideas at first? How do their opinions change as they see William's creations come to life?

10. Explain why being inventive is an important trait for scientists and engineers?
