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.

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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?”

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

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

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

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6. What are two character traits of William, explain how you know this:
   a. ________________________________________________________________________________
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   b. ________________________________________________________________________________
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7. Explain what the author means when he says, “The windmill was more than a machine, it was a weapon to fight hunger.”

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

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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?

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

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