

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind – Discussion Questions

General Questions:

Did you enjoy the book (or whatever part you read)? Why or why not?

What would it be like if your building did not have any electricity? Or your block? Or the whole city? How would your life change if you lived every day without modern conveniences like power, telephones or computers?

In what ways is William like his family and in what ways is he different? How can your parents' values shape your actions and how can you express your own (maybe different) ideas?

This is another example of a kid (14 years old) solving an adult problem. Why do you think sometimes kids are able to come up with better and more creative solutions than adults?

In-Depth Questions:

Why was staying in school so important to William? How does having money or not having money change the type of education available to people (in Malawi and around the world)? Should education be affected by money or should education be free to anyone who wants it?

What is the importance of magic and religion in the book? How do these things coexist with education and when do they cause friction?

Compare some US national disasters with the famine and drought in Malawi: ex: The Great Depression, Hurricane Katrina, September 11th, etc. How do most people or governments handle such situations and who are the exceptions?

What are some current problems that you wish could be solved? If money and government attention were not factors, how would you solve them? No idea is too crazy – how could a great idea make a big difference in today's world?