

## ESL Book Club 2023 – November Discussion Questions

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Reader's Edition) by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer**

**Discussion Date: Friday, Nov 17, 2023, at 10:30 am via Zoom**

**\*\*\*(This month we are meeting on the third Friday of the month, on Nov 17)**

1. Describe William's village. Does it remind you of a place you know?
2. How did William's childhood prepare him to become an inventor?
3. Most people in William's village were farmers. Have you ever lived on a farm? What are some hardships and joys of living on a farm?
4. William had to drop out of school due to a lack of money. Is it a government's responsibility to educate all children?
5. The crop failure caused major starvation in Malawi. Who should be responsible for preventing starvation when crops fail? Why do you think this family survived while others died?
6. Discovering the library was eye-opening for William. Describe your earliest memories of visiting a library.

7. The village people called William a madman while he was building his windmill. Why do people tease and call names when a person pursues an innovative idea? Has it happened to you?
  
8. Who was most helpful to William? How did they help him? How did he repay them?
  
9. How did having electricity change William's life? What would be most difficult for you, if you didn't have electricity?
  
10. What other inventions did William try? Were they successful?
  
11. Eventually William's inventions got the attention of the news media. How did that change his life? Have you ever had any lucky breaks such as that in your life?
  
12. William was amazed when he was introduced to the internet. What was your first experience with the internet?
  
13. What is your overall feeling about this book? On a scale of 1-10 (1 is bad, 10 is good), how would you rate this book