**Discussion Questions Chapters 9-12**

**Chapter 9**

What did William do when he couldn’t go back to school? (p. 160)

Why was reading on his own so difficult for William? Why did this make his accomplishments even more amazing? (p. 162)

How did William “strike gold” in the scrap yard? (p. 176)

How did William’s friends Gilbert and Geoffrey support William’s desire for education and his plans to build a windmill? (p. 161, 172)

**Chapter 10**

How does William feel when he has to drop out of school? (p. 183) How do you think William’s father feels about it?

In the quote on page 184: “This time around, after two years of turmoil, of walking the desert in search of Canaan, it was as if God had led us out of bondage and revealed our great reward: we had a beautiful crop of maize, the best we’d seen in years” what does the metaphor “walking the desert in search of Canaan” mean? How does it relate to the story?

How did William’s parents and sisters fell about him building the windmill? (p. 186-187) Compare this to the way that his friends reacted?

How did the scrap yard replace school for William? (p. 187)

**Chapter 11**

What happened to the Windmill when it is first started on the temporary pole? How does William feel about this? (p. 197-198)

In your own words, describe what dissipation is and how it helped William with the windmill providing electricity? (bottom of p. 198)

What is William’s view of science vs. magic? (p. 199)

Why did a crowd gather at the base of the windmill? (p. 201-202)

What did William mean when he said “It was a glorious light and it was absolutely mine?” (p. 203)

What did the crowd think when the windmill worked? (p. 204-105)

**Chapter 12**

While he waited for a battery, William used his windmill to charge cell phones, what did he need to learn and do to be able to do this? (p. 211-212)

Once William was able to get a battery, how was he able to help his family? (p. 213)

What happens when William’s room is infested by termites? (p. 215) What does this near disaster cause him to build next and how does it help? (p. 216)

In addition to poor wiring, what was the big problem with the windmill and what was his plan to fix it? (p. 218-219)