Discussion Questions for Part 1

Themes:

* One person can change the world.
* Overcoming obstacles
* Perseverence
* Dream big

**Part #1, pp. 1-78**

* In the first sentence, William Kamkwamba says, "Before I discovered the miracles of science, magic ruled the world." How did magic rule William's world?
* How would you characterize William's relationship with his father? In what ways did his father help shape William's outlook?
* Malawi is an extremely poor nation. What are the causes of this poverty and what exacerbates it? How might these causes and influences be overcome?
* How did the Malawi government exacerbate the problems of the citizens during the drought?
* Bullying is common among both cultures. What did he do to cope when he was bullied? What lessons do we learn from his experiences?
* Most people in Milawi are farmers? What problems did they face? Are there similarities to American farmers even though we have an abundance of technology to help?
* What motivates William?

***The following Questions are issued by publisher.***

* William was desperate to stay in school but could not because of money. Think about American students. Why do you think with all the opportunities for schooling, students are disinterested in learning? In your opinion, what accounts for the differences between William and his American counterparts?
* Many Americans criticize public schools and some even question the need for them. Others argue that money doesn't matter when it comes to education. How does William's experience address our own debates on the subject? Think about his school, and compare it to American schools. Might William's life be different if he had access to education without having to pay? How so?
* What lessons did you take away from William's story?