The Ballard Center for Social Impact believes social issues must be understood before they can be solved. And what better way to seek understanding than to have meaningful discussions with the people around you? (Besides, it’s more fun to learn with friends!) We’ve provided a few watch-party questions to facilitate these meaningful discussions with roommates or family members. Consider watching the film with this list of questions and then discuss afterward:

1. What were your general thoughts about the movie?

2. How did poverty, lack of education, and environmental problems build upon each other in the movie? Why do you think they are so intertwined?

3. In the movie, William resorted to desperate measures in order to keep learning. How does this compare to your experience with receiving an education? Are there parallels? Differences?

4. When William presents the windmill solution initially, his father is angry and reluctant to implement it. Why do you think that is? What barriers do we face as a society that impede us from trying new solutions?

5. When William’s community runs out of food, two contrasting scenes are presented: one with people fighting for and stealing resources and another with government workers helping William escape from a mob of people. What do times of crisis show us about human nature? How can we take this into consideration when seeking to solve social problems?

6. Neither William’s mother nor his sister, Annie, had the chance to complete their schooling. What barriers exist for women in receiving an education that do not exist for men? How does this contribute to poverty?

7. The boys in William’s class had equal and superior opportunities for education, yet it was William who came up with a solution to save his village. Why do you think this was? What are the qualities of a Changemaker?

8. What are your thoughts on the depiction of the Malawian government? What role does government play in lifting citizens out of poverty?

9. What does poverty look like in the United States? How can we apply principles from William’s story as we seek solutions for our own country?

Thank you for participating in the Peery Film Series. If you would like to learn more about ways you can be involved in solving social problems, please contact the Ballard Center for Social Impact at ballardcenter@byu.edu or visit ballardcenter.byu.edu