



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR

GEORGE MACDONALD'S

AT THE BACK OF THE

NORTH WIND

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Ecclesiastes 11:5

As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

SPOILER ALERT!

Certain plot points are revealed in these discussion questions!

Read Genesis 1 – 3. What was God's original intention for human beings? How did human sin result in the penalty of evil being released onto the earth?



Discuss the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”. Why did God create such a thing in an otherwise perfectly created world?

Discuss free will (Deuteronomy 30:19). Why did God create human beings with the power of choice? What does this say about God’s desire for relationship with us? What does this say about God’s love for us?

Why is it sometimes hard to accept that such a loving God would allow evil to exist in the world? Have you ever had circumstances where you questioned God’s goodness in your life? What are some ways you can overcome doubt in a time of difficulty?

Some of the characters refer to the “wheat and the tares growing up together”, referring to Jesus’ parable in Matthew 13:24-30. Read and discuss this parable and how it relates to *theodicy*- that is, why a loving God allows evil to exist.

Diamond Powell and her mother Louisa have a difficult life- a messy divorce and an uncaring father are implied, along with Diamond’s nearly lifelong battle with cancer. It is very unfair because they are such nice, godly people! Discuss the concept of fairness. God is a just God (Psalms 7:11, Hebrews 6:10), which means He is a fair God. How is God’s fairness different than *our* concept of fairness, since we go through *many* things in life that are unfair?



Destiny (personified as an ethereal Jane Fonda-like fitness instructor in the film, of course) is the plan and purpose that God has for every human being, as mentioned in Jeremiah 29:11. Though Diamond dies at only 12 years of age, do you think God still fulfilled His plans in her life? How did she make an impact on the people around her, including Jasper and Onyx and the incident with the Coke and the wires?

Discuss the concept of destiny. Do you know the destiny God has for your life? Why is it important to know some of the plans and purposes God has for you? How can this affect how you live your daily life?

Instead of representing the Holy Spirit (which is what many might expect), the North Wind represents the arbitrary nature of good and evil coexisting in the world. How is daily life similar to the blowing of the wind? Can good things come out of a storm? How do changes in the weather affect us, and how does that relate to a fallen world where both good and evil exist?

The laser tag “stand-ins” for angels and demons sing about being “supernaturally natural”. What do you think this means? (Ephesians 6:10-20)

The 1980s had cool images, fun synth music, and technical innovations like video games, computers, VCRs and home video, etc. But do you think life and society have changed much since then? What has changed since the 1980s? What has remained the same? In what ways have human beings remained the same no matter what decade or century they are living in?