The Boy on the Wooden Box Pre-reading Questions

1. In your opinion, why do groups of people dislike each other? What are groups of people you see in your everyday world that seem to dislike or distrust each other? Why?

2. When the majority of people believe that a certain action or policy is justified (the right thing to do), does that mean that you should also believe that way? Explain your answer.

3. Have you ever been a witness to a situation where one person was causing harm to another? If yes, what was your reaction? If not, would you try to stop the person from continuing to cause harm?

4. Have you ever judged another person based on idle gossip or even an insinuation about that person that you may have heard from someone else? Explain what happened.

5. Some people claim that prejudice is based on a fear of the unknown. Explain what you think this means. What is your definition of prejudice? Why?

6. Do you think prejudicial behavior is learned, or does it happen naturally? Do you think it is taught explicitly or implicitly? Explain your answer. Have you ever felt you were being "taught" to dislike someone?

7. Do you think that people are justified in ignoring injustices toward others if it means they personally will remain safe? What evidence has to be presented to justify ignoring an injustice to a group of people who may be different?

8. Genocide has occurred many times throughout history. What do you think this word means? Why do you think it happens, and do you think something like this could occur again?