

***Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways do the individuals Dr. Jim encounters reflect the broader societal issues surrounding homelessness?
2. What can we learn about systemic change vs individual impact from Dr. Jim's three-decade dedication to the homeless community?
3. What do you think drives Dr. Jim to continue his work despite all of the factors working against him and his patients?
4. What lessons do you think Dr. Jim learned from soaking patients' feet at the Pine Street clinic?
5. After Tony's death, Dr. Jim tells the author, "This is what we do while we're waiting for the world to change." What do you think he means by this statement?
6. Discuss some of the people we get to know in the book. Who stands out to you and why?
7. In what ways does the narrative highlight the importance of empathy in healing?
8. Reflect on homelessness in your own community. What are some of the barriers to housing people might experience where you live? Are you aware of any programs you feel are having a positive impact?