

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: STEM, Innovation, Perseverance

Book Brief: A boy in a drought-ravaged village in Africa wonders how things work. Teaching himself English from old science books, he builds a windmill for his village. A true story of perseverance, patience, and innovation.

Author:
William Kamkwamba
and Bryan Mealer
Illustrator:
Anna Hymas



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students what they notice in the picture. What is the boy looking at, and what does this thing do?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: Ask students what plants need to grow. As students name things that plants need to grow, ask students what would happen if they were unable to have water. Explain that they will learn what William's solution to this problem was!

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, pay attention to William's attitude throughout the book!"

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What happened to the crops in the summer?
- What idea did William get from the American Books?
- What did the townspeople think about William using tools from the trash?
- What happened when the windmill blew?
- How did the town react to the working windmill?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How does William show perseverance throughout the story? Ask students how he changed his village and what the challenges were.

Extending Our Thinking: What did William's story tell you about setting goals and reaching them? Asks students if they ever face something that seems impossible, and what they did in reaction to it!

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.