



THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

William Kamkwamba grew up in a small village in Malawi with limited electricity access. Through perseverance and innovation, he brought wind-generated power to his community, which created electricity to power irrigation systems and in-home electricity. Several years later, Kamkwamba, together with Bryan Mealer, told his story in *A Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

Using the following prompts, make predictions about the book and choose one research topic and one reflection question.

PREDICT. Preview the book.

Look closely at the front cover of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. What predictions can you make about the book? What questions do you have about the book?

RESEARCH. Choose one research topic.

A. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* takes place in the African country of Malawi, nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa." Research the country and record facts about its geography, economy, people, and government.

B. In *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, William describes the devastating famine that hit Malawi in 2002. Research the causes and impacts of the famine on the Malawian people. Then, research ways to prevent famine in the future.

C. In *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, William builds a windmill to bring electricity to his community. Windmills have been around for over 3,000 years. Research the history of windmills and describe how people have used them over time.

D. Throughout *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, William's access to school helps him become an innovative thinker and problem solver. Research education in Malawi and record how it is similar and different from your educational experience.

REFLECT. Choose one reflection question.

A. Think about a time when you invented or created something. Draw a detailed picture of your creation. Then, explain how it works and why you created your invention.

B. Reflect on how electricity impacts your life. In what ways do you rely on electricity? How would your life be different without access to electricity?

C. Consider the role of education in your life. How has learning independently or in school empowered you to impact your community or pursue your interests?

COLLABORATE. Discuss your prediction, research, and reflection with your class.