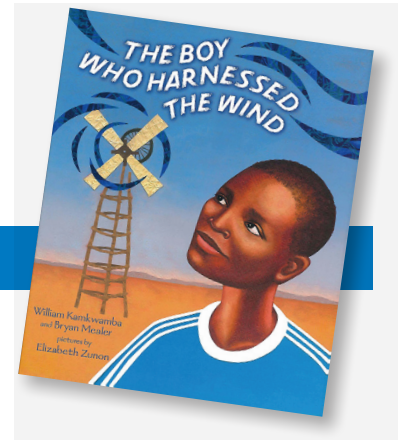


The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind



A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Innovation, Energy, Africa, Imagination, 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.

Author: William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Illustrator: Elizabeth Zunon



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask if anyone knows what *harnessed* means. This story is about a 14-year-old boy who harnessed or “caught” the wind to help his family and his village survive.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Hear William Kamkwamba tell how he harnessed the wind. <http://movingwindmills.org/documentary>

WHIMSICAL WINDMILLS (AGES 7-12)

Materials: scissors, paper, pencil with eraser, push pin, crayons

Cut a square from paper. Mark pin hole dots as shown on diagram. Decorate both sides. Cut from each corner stopping just before the center hole. Use push pin to punch hole in first corner, bending paper towards center hole. Continue with other three corners slipping each onto the end of the push pin. Push pin through center hole and onto pencil eraser. Blow to test if the pinwheel moves. Adjust as needed.

BUILDING BLOCKS (AGES 5-7)

Bring together blocks and other miscellaneous items from the Mystery Box. Encourage children to think like William and see what they can build.

INNOVATIVE INVENTIONS (AGES 8-12)

Children’s Challenge: Using William as an example, think of something to invent to solve a problem or address a need for you and your family. Create a poster showcasing your invention and its benefits.

CATCH THE WIND (AGES 5-12)

Materials: paper plates, craft sticks, tape, petroleum jelly, magnifying glasses

Make a wind catcher. Attach craft stick to back of plate. Dab petroleum jelly in a small circle in the middle of the plate. Take wind catcher outside on a windy day. Which way is the wind blowing? Place wind catcher into the ground so the front of plate is facing the wind. Leave for 30 minutes. Collect wind catcher and use magnifying glasses to see what the wind blew in the center of the plate.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT WIND AND ENERGY

Catch the Wind, Anne Johnson (2008)
Energy Island, Allan Drummond (2011)
Wind Power, Tea Benduhn (2008)

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