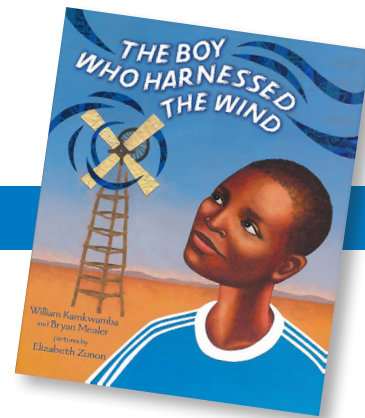


# The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES



**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, build background knowledge:

What does it mean to “harness” something? What is a windmill? Have you ever seen one before in person?

**While reading, make connections:** Why are water and electricity important for most communities? How does the life William leads in Malwai compare with yours?

**After reading, ask questions:** What surprised you most in this story? Why do you think the others called him crazy instead of helping him with his vision? What motivates someone like William?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Materials: recycled boxes, containers, bottle caps, straws etc.

William and his friends constructed toy trucks out of recycled materials. Get a friend and see what type of toys you can construct. Can you make a toy truck? What other ideas do you have? What challenges did you face in the construction process?

### STRAWBERRY WINDMILLS

Ingredients: graham crackers, chocolate spread, strawberries, blueberries

Thinly slice strawberries lengthwise. Place enough chocolate spread on graham cracker to hold strawberries in place.

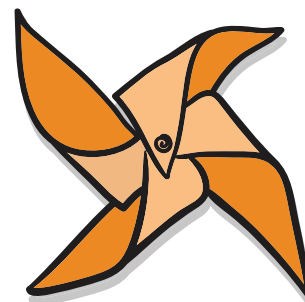


Arrange strawberry slices in the shape of the blades on a windmill. Place a blueberry in the center. Eat and enjoy!

### WIND WALK

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

Using the handout (page 2) create your own pinwheel. Take your pinwheel out for a wind walk. How windy is it? In a 10-second period, count how many times your pinwheel goes around.



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Find out firsthand about William and his inspiration to help his village. Visit [www.movingwindmills.org/documentary](http://www.movingwindmills.org/documentary)

## 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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## MAKING A PINWHEEL HANDOUT

- 1.) Cut a square from paper (along outer dotted lines).
- 2.) Decorate both sides of paper.
- 3.) Cut from each corner (along dotted lines) toward center stopping at the **X**.
- 4.) Use push pin to punch hole in first corner, bending paper toward the center hole.
- 5.) Continue with other three corners slipping each onto the end of the push pin.
- 6.) Push pin through center hole and onto pencil eraser or other kind of handle.
- 7.) Blow to test if the pinwheel moves. Adjust as needed.

