

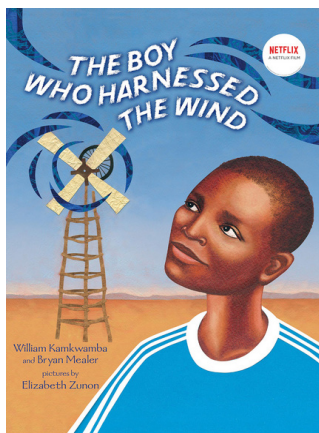


RIVERMONT READS TOGETHER

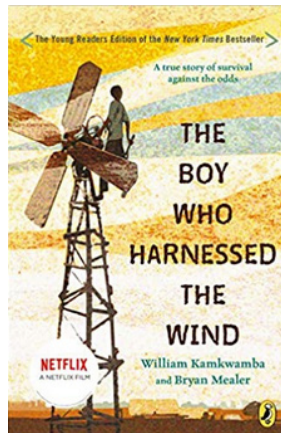
SUMMER 2023

All Rivermont students should come to school on August 21st, 2023, having read one of the following books. We will spend a significant amount of time during our first week discussing the themes and ideas raised by the readings.

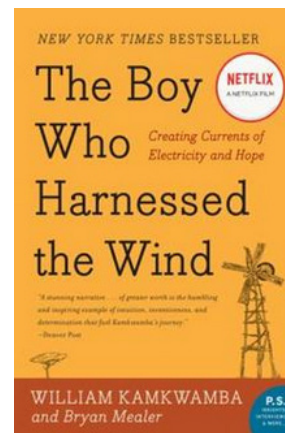
For readers grades 5 and below



For readers grades 5 - 8



For readers grades 8 - 12



About the Book:

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.¹

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him.

A Note to Parents & Guardians:

Please note that both the young adult and original book contain graphic depictions of life during famine. Please factor that into the decision about which book to read as a family. Students are also welcomed to watch the movie version of the book, available on Netflix. The film (2019) is rated PG.

Reflection Questions:

1. This is in part a story about science. What is William's method or process as he discovers how to "harness the wind"? How does his process compare to the scientific method as you understand it?
2. Reading William's story reminds us of things we otherwise might take for granted. What struggles were a part of William's life that members of our campus community don't have to worry about? What struggles does William face that are universal?
3. What is the role of education and schools in William's life? Why is William so motivated to attend school? How does he learn despite not always being able to attend school? How does his experience make you reflect on your own learning process?

¹ From the back cover of the William Morrow edition (2009).