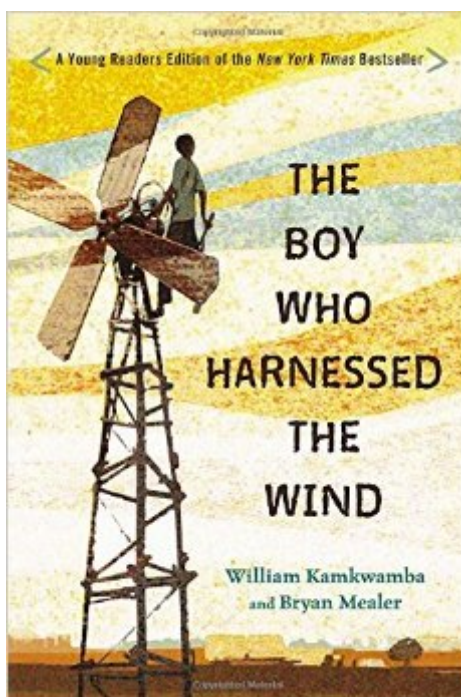


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# The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind: Young Readers Edition



## Synopsis

The *New York Times* bestselling memoir of the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawian village is now perfect for young readers. When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world. Complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0860 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Dial Books; Reprint edition (February 5, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803740808

ISBN-13: 978-0803740808

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (138 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #319,290 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Electricity & Electronics](#) #144 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #232 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

I confess to being a big fan of the adult version of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind." It is one of the most moving stories I've ever read. But how can you translate 30,000 words into a children's picture book? William Kamkwamba (24) and co-author Bryan Mealer have simmered the adult

memoir into a fine-cuisine reduction of just 1000 perfectly-chosen words, illuminated by the oil-and-cut-paper illustrations of the very talented illustrator Elizabeth Zunon, who grew up in the Ivory Coast. Her use of color, composition and form informs while it entertains. While the story is linear, kids will enjoy re-viewing the multi-hued spreads to spot the tremendous detail evident on every page. Born and raised in Wimbe, Malawi, William Kamkwamba was just 14 when he was forced to drop out of high school for lack of school fees, because his family needed every kwacha (Malawian money) for food to survive a deadly famine. Against this life-and-death backdrop, William, determined to create a future for himself, went to a recently-built community lending library. There he saw a picture of a windmill on the cover of a 8th grade U.S. science textbook called Using Energy. The book said you can use a windmill to pump water or generate electricity. That would help his family overcome hunger through crop irrigation and save money on kerosene for light. The kerosene funds could then be spent on more food. On the spot he decided to build a windmill, but he had no money or idea how to do so. While trying to solve this puzzle with the help of his loyal cousin and his best friend, he was mocked by members of his community who believed the boy was going mad, though William enjoyed the full support of his parents and six sisters. His quest to realize his windmill forms the core of "The Boy Who...

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