



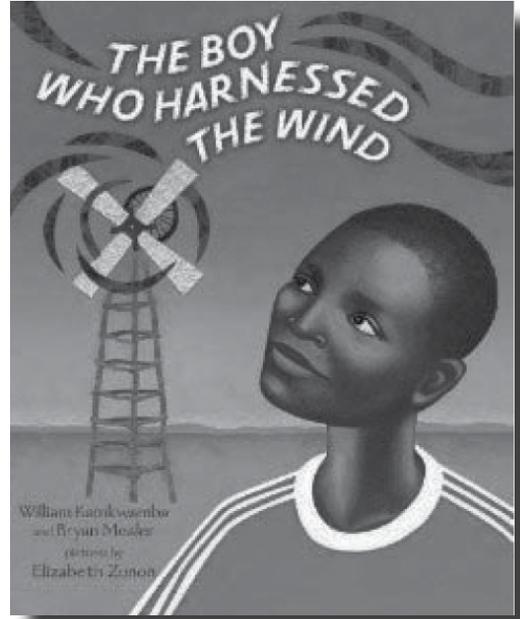
# “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind”

## by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Copyright 2012. Published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group.

### Book Description:

Heroes can be any age. When William Kamkwamba was fourteen years old, living in a drought-ravaged area of Malawi in Africa, he pursued a dream that brought electricity and running water to his desperately poor village. William had always been interested in how mechanical things work, and after poring over old science textbooks, painstakingly teaching himself English so that he could understand them, he became determined to build a windmill. The people in his village called him crazy, but he knew he could succeed. Slowly but surely, he turned junkyard scraps into a functioning windmill, and brought electricity to his home and eventually life-saving water to his village. Lyrically told and gloriously illustrated, William’s story shows how—no matter how young you are or how huge the challenge—creativity, determination, and hard work can help save your world.



### About Authors William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Biographical information taken from book jacket description. Go to page 33 in this curriculum guide for more information on William Kamkwamba.

**William Kamkwamba** was born in 1987 and grew up near the village of Wimbe in central Malawi. Currently a student at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, he has been a speaker at conferences and universities throughout the United States and abroad. His work is supported by the Moving Windmills Project, a nonprofit group that supports Malawian-run rural economic development and education projects.

**Bryan Mealer** is a former Associated Press staff correspondent and the author of *All Things Must Fight to Live: Stories of War and Deliverance in Congo*, as well as coauthor (with William Kamkwamba) of the original edition of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, which is a New York Times Best Seller and Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year. He holds a degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and lives in Saugerties, New York, with his wife and son.