

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Summer Reading Guide

## *The Readers Who Harnessed The Book: One-Book-One-Wolcott Summer Reading Study Guide*

**Introduction:** It's time for One-Book-One-Wolcott, a program in which we, as a community, all read the same book and then come together in the fall to discuss it and participate in programming centered on the major themes and ideas in the book. This year's One-Book-One-Wolcott selection is William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer's *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, a non-fiction book about William Kamkwamba's experiences growing up in Malawi and teaching himself science and engineering. Kamkwamba identifies the issues of drought and hunger plaguing his community and engineers a solution through windmills to bring electricity and running water to his village.

**Directions:** Read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* over the summer vacation. There are two versions of the book available to provide an accessible and enjoyable reading opportunity for everyone in the Wolcott community. Please use the [attached chart](#) to determine the appropriate version of the book for you to read as well as the appropriate format (text, e-text, audio or combination) and **purchase the book**. You can also find a copy of the book at your local public library.

Complete this study guide and bring a **completed copy of the study guide** with you to **the first day of English**. Students can either print a copy and complete the study guide by hand, or download a copy, type their answers, and then print. *Typed study guides should be printed and brought to the first day of classes.* **Effort on the study guide will count as the first English grade of the 2020-2021 fall semester.**

The One-Book-One-Wolcott discussion and programming will happen on **Friday, September 4**. **Students who DO NOT have a completed study guide on the first day of school will be REQUIRED to stay for Academic Coaching during the first two weeks of school for support on completing this assignment.**

**Timeline:** Use the dates below as a guide to help you complete the Summer Reading and the Study Guide by the **First Day of School!**

**6/8-6/19** - Order Summer Reading Book and Complete Pre Reading Questions

**6/22-7/3** - Read Section 1: Prologue & Chapters 1-5 and Complete Study Guide Questions

**7/6-7/17** - Read Section 2: Chapters 6-10 and Complete Study Guide Questions

**7/20-8/31** - Read Section 3: Chapters 11-15 & Epilogue and Complete Study Guide Questions

**8/3-8/14** - Complete After Reading Questions and Review Study Guide for Completion and Thoughtfulness

**8/25** - Put Summer Reading Guide in Your Backpack

**8/26** - TURN IN SUMMER READING GUIDE TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER!

### Pre Reading Questions

1. What does it mean to be an innovator? Who, in your opinion, can be an innovator?
  
2. Watch this [video](#) about William Kamkwamba. What are three ideas you expect to encounter while reading the book?
  
3. You are about to read about William Kamkwamba's experiences growing up in Malawi and inventing a windmill to bring opportunity and electricity to his village. What is one question you have *before* you start reading?

*Before you start reading... Some things to know...*

\*\*\* We have broken the book down into three sections to make it easier to chunk. Section 1 is Prologue & Chapters 1-5, Section 2 is Chapters 6-10, and Section 3 is Chapters 11-15 & Epilogue \*\*\*

The annotation guide is divided up by the three sections. Each section is broken down to include comprehension questions, reader connections, and innovation ideas. It is **recommended to preview all questions** for a section before reading.

Comprehension	Literary Feature: Reader Connections	Innovation Ideas
These questions are broken up by chapter and help you identify key events and plot details.	These questions are designed to give you greater insight into life in Malawi and building personal connections with the author and his experiences.	These questions lead you through the scientific method of thinking to push ideas for innovation and exploration.

**SECTION ONE: Prologue & CHAPTERS 1-5**

**Comprehension**

*Prologue + Chapter 1*

1. How does William explain his view of the relationship between facts and reason, and mystery or magic? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 2*

1. What is a significant experience that occurs for William in Chapter 2? What impact does it have on him? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 3*

1. Identify a problem William encounters and how he goes about solving it in Chapter 3. **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 4*

1. What problem comes up for the people of Malawi and how will this impact them in the coming year? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 5*

1. What is contributing to the growing famine and hunger in Malawi? What steps does William's family take to prepare? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

**Literary Feature: Reader Connections**

1. William vividly describes his father and significant family members who impacted him as a young child. Identify one of William’s family members who had an impact on him and how. Then, reflect on who had a significant impact on your development and why. In what ways are your experiences similar or different from William? **[Suggested to Complete After Reading Chapter 1]**

	William	You
A family member who made a significant impact.		
What was the impact and why was it significant?		

2. William explains how after his Uncle John passes away it is the first time he sees his parents cry. Part of Malawi culture is that “when a loved one dies, you’re expected to wail and cry to properly show your grief.” Develop the connections and contrasts between Malawi and the United States.

Based on the quote above, how is crying viewed in Malawi?	How is crying viewed in the United States?	How do you view crying?

## Innovation Ideas

1. William states in this section that he dreams of being a scientist and identifies a key issue and problem around the need for sustainable electricity in his community.

What, in your opinion, is a key issue or problem - on a global or local scale - that needs to be addressed? Some ideas include *global warming, deforestation, access to clean water* etc.

**Choose an issue or problem that you CARE about!**

Why are you passionate or interested in this issue or problem? Develop the reasons for your interest in **2-3 Sentences** below.

**SECTION TWO: CHAPTERS 6-10**

**Comprehension**

*Chapter 6*

1. In this chapter, there are several additional challenges that arise for William and his family.

Challenge	Why is this challenging?

*Chapters 7 & 8*

1. In this section, William makes a difficult decision about Khamba. Use the chart below to develop the difficulty of his decision.

What does William decide to do with Khamba?	
Pros of this Decision	Cons of this Decision
If you were in the same position as William, what would you do? Why?	

2. William describes the process of starvation with specific detail. Find one quote about hunger and starvation that stands out to you and explain why.

Quote + Pg. #	
What strikes you about this quote?	

*Chapter 9*

1. Use the chart below to identify how William's education develops.

Even though William isn't in school, how does he go about gaining knowledge?	
How does William learn about electricity and windmills?	
How would windmills and water pumps make life much easier in Malawi?	

*Chapter 10*

1. How do each of the individuals below support William and his goal to build the windmill?

William's Father	
Gilbert	

**Literary Feature: Reader Connections**

1. According to cultural customs in Malawi, daughters do not eat with their fathers and sons do not eat with their mothers. In fact they eat in separate rooms. However, for William’s family when the famine hits they make the change to have everyone eat together in the same room for the first time to conserve on kerosene lamps for lighting and ensure that everyone has equal access to the available food.

Based on the question, what changes occur in William’s family with regard to these customs during the famine?	What changes in daily life or regular customs for your family have changed from COVID-19?
Based on the question, why does William’s family make these changes? How do you think the changes are driven by the circumstances of the famine?	Do you think these changes may end up becoming permanent changes?

1. It’s not easy to be a witness to people suffering from hunger. William gives specific details about hunger and starvation in Malawi. Although the United States is much wealthier than Malawi, there are many hungry people on the streets of Chicago and throughout the country.

Identify 3-4 specific details about what hunger is like in Malawi during the famine.	How have you encountered people who are hungry?	What do you think could be done to address hunger in Chicago?



## Innovation Ideas

1. After identifying the topic he is passionate about, William takes the next step of the scientific method for innovation by engaging in research and asking questions. When he comes across a picture of Nkula Falls on the Shire River in southern Malawi, William thinks about how he's always heard about hydro plants, but "how and why they worked, I had no clue." Use the chart below to develop your own next steps of the scientific method using the problem you identified in **Part 1**.

Refer back to the issue or problem you identified in the Part One Innovation section. Restate the issue you're passionate about below.	
Why is this a problem?	
Conduct some research to determine what already exists to help with this problem. Identify 2-3 solutions that currently exist.	
What are the limitations of the solutions above and what technology(ies) would be needed to improve the solution?	

**SECTION THREE: CHAPTERS 11-15 + Epilogue**

**Comprehension**

*Chapter 11*

1. Use the chart below to develop William's accomplishment with his windmill.

How does William begin to gather the pieces for his invention?	
How does his community react to him as he goes about getting all the parts together?	
What is William's reaction to others in his village?	
How does William ultimately prove himself and his ideas?	

*Chapter 12*

1. Complete the chart below to develop how William's project develops.

	How does this impact William and his developing inventions?
A cyclone	
<i>Explaining Physics</i>	
Mutual induction	

*Chapter 13*

1. Why is William afraid he will become like the other dropouts? What does William do in order to not fall into the same kind of lifestyle as the other boys not in school? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 14*

1. How does the story of William’s windmill spread? What significant life changes does this result in for William? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

*Chapter 15 + Epilogue*

1. How does William’s world expand as he travels outside Malawi? What does he begin to dream or imagine as a result of meeting new people, seeing new places, and furthering his education? **[Answer in complete sentences]**

**Literary Feature: Reader Connections**

1. As a new famine approaches, the people in Malawi blame magic for their misfortune which leads them to blaming William and his “electric wind” as magic responsible for the famine. **[Suggested to complete after Chapter 13]**

Why do the people of Malawi blame William and his “magic” for their problems?
What examples in the United States exist of individuals avoiding science and logic in favor of other explanations?

2. William now has educational opportunities that he didn't have before. However, William encounters significant challenges. Use the chart below to develop your thoughts on education in the United States and Malawi. **[Suggested to complete after Chapter 14]**

	Obstacles to Education	Approaches to Overcoming Obstacles in Education
Malawi (William's Story)		
United States (Your Own Personal Story)		

## Innovation Ideas

1. William's story highlights how failure can provide insight for future success within the scientific method and innovation process. As an innovator, it is important to not only develop ideas but also plan for both successes and pitfalls.

First, review the **problem** you identified in **Innovation Connection 1** and the **research** you conducted around what **solutions already exist** and **what is needed** in **Innovation Connection 2**.

Next, what is one idea you have to address the problem as a whole or a portion of the problem you have identified?

Describe your idea in detail.

What is one potential benefit from your idea?

What is one potential pitfall from your idea?

**Optional:** Include a sketch, drawing, or photo for inspiration for your idea.

**After-Reading Questions**

1. What is one thing you are taking away from reading William Kamkwamba’s *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*?

2. As William has the opportunity to attend the African Leadership Academy, he meets other young people from all over Africa who have endured hardship but emerged triumphant. William describes a vision for “creating a new kind of Africa, a place of leaders instead of victims, a home of innovation rather than charity.”

What do you think of William’s dream of the future for Africa?	
What kind of dream do you have for our country, state, city, community?	