

Windmills (How It Works)

Discussion Guide

Grades: 1st – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview with the students the cover & title of the book. Ask what the students already know about windmills & renewable energy.
- Preview vocabulary/terms, including: windmills, wind turbines, renewable energy, clean energy, rotor, generator, transmission lines, converts, electricity
- Ask: Why is renewable energy important in our everyday lives? (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

On chart paper, list:

- The parts of a windmill and the parts involved in converting that wind energy.
- The variety of places that can benefit from windmills & wind energy.

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: For what purpose were windmills first developed in the Middle Ages?
- Describe how wind energy is better for the environment than other energy sources.
- **Extension:** Draw an illustration of a town, showing the windmills, substation, and the connection to homes, businesses, and schools. Label all parts of the illustration.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.