

The Junkyard Genius



READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Innovation, Problem-Solving

Book Brief: The true tale of a boy who built his own windmill to generate electricity for his village!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Arianna Bellucci

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “Have you ever created or built something using materials you found or had at home? What did you make?” Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about the main idea of William’s story and how he uses what he has to solve an important problem.”



Think Aloud: “I’m noticing that William doesn’t give up even though he doesn’t have fancy materials or equipment. He uses what’s available in the junkyard and keeps trying. This shows me that with some creative thinking, we can solve important problems even when we don’t have everything we need.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What problem does William’s village face?
- Where does William find the materials to build his windmill?
- What challenges does William face while building?
- How does William’s invention help his community?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “What is the main idea of William’s story? How did he use creativity and his resources to make a difference?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, “What is a problem in your school or community that you wish you could help solve? What ideas do you have?” Encourage students to choose one small problem they notice (like organizing classroom supplies, helping classmates find books, or making recess more fun) and brainstorm a solution using materials or resources already available to them. Students can sketch their invention or plan and explain how it would work.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- 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.