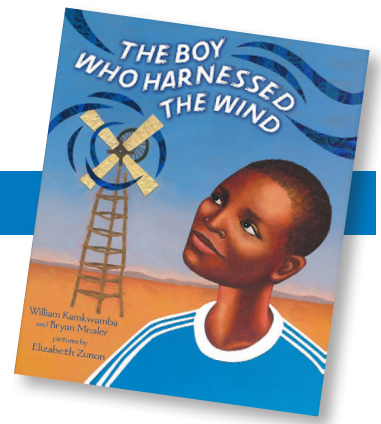# The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Innovation, Energy, Africa, Imagination, Perseverance

Book Brief: A boy in a drought-ravaged village in Africa wonders how things work. Teaching himself English from old science books, he builds a windmill for his village.

Author:
William KamKwamba and Bryan Mealer

Illustrator:
Elizabeth Zunon

Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies, Engineering

TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: "Based on the cover illustration explain what you think the title means."

The Pictures: Have students look at the first page on which it shows the village. "What can you tell me about the living situation in a village in Malwai? What resources might be available?"

Prior Knowledge: Have students ever seen a windmill? If so, where was it and what purpose did it serve? Explain that when the wind moves the blades of the windmill, it produces energy, which can be used to do different types of work. William lives in Malwai. Who knows where that is? On what continent? Let's find it on the map.

Vocabulary: harnessed, maize, pangas

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, be prepared to summarize the challenges that William faced on his journey to harness the wind."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- Where did William's curiosity come from?
- What can you infer about William?
- How would you feel if others thought you were *misala,* crazy?

- Could he have accomplished his goal without help?
- With no electricity, where do you think the light bulb came from?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What challenges did William face throughout this story?"

Extending our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: What would your life be like with no electricity? What part did William's parents play in his quest to build the windmill? Why was William the first to bring this type of resource to his village?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

Reading Is Fundamental