



## *Pushing the Limits of Transformation* Featured Video and Book – Discussion Questions

Who doesn't love a whole new start? The chance to reimagine and remake our home, our job, our neighborhood or ourselves. And what about those among us who can pick up any raw material and hammer it into a work of art? Humans stretch themselves all the time to transform what was into what could be. Get ready to discover what humans can accomplish by pushing the limits of transformation.

### ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind***

**William Kamkwamba, and Bryan Mealer, Nonfiction.** (Young reader's edition available.)

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village two luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him *misala*—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him. Now a Netflix film. [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

- Can you imagine living without electricity? How did the villagers compensate for not having electricity, telephones, or most of the modern conveniences we take for granted?
- What is the role of magic in the story? What about education? Contrast the two. Is there room for both in a culture? What about education and religion? How do the two impact each other? How did William's religion influence his outlook?
- What motivates people like William to attempt the unthinkable? How would you describe him to someone who's never heard of his achievement? Does this kind of perspective come from nature or nurture?
- Imagine what a handful of "Williams" with some encouragement and financial backing from government and private sources might accomplish in our local community. Offer some ideas.

