

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind- 3rd grade lesson plan

William Kamkwamba was 14 years old when he made his first windmill from scraps. He eventually used it to charge a car battery and light 4 light bulbs in his parents house. It wasn't until 7 years later that William made his "Green Machine" that could pull water from a well to water the family's vegetable garden year-round so they didn't go hungry again. William is now a student at Dartmouth College and plans to return to Malawi to work on renewable energy for electricity and pumping water into villages.

Preview the book and/or share it with your class with the videos below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qHfTeB0wPY>

Lesson Plan:

What was the main problem in William's story?

There was a draught where no water came for 2 years which caused a famine in their country because no food could grow.

Did William already know how to make a windmill? How did he learn?

How is William's story different than your life?

- We don't live on a farm
- We have electricity and lights in our houses and schools
- We get our food from a store
- We get to go to school for free to learn things instead of teaching ourselves

How is William's story the same as your life?

- We can have droughts or other weather problems
- We can teach ourselves how to solve problems or issues affecting us or our families
- We can take what we learned from solving our first problem, like William's first windmill that he used to power lights in his house and use that knowledge to solve other bigger problems like being able to water his family's whole garden.
- We can go to college to learn ways to make our city or country better

Although William lived in Africa there are things that are similar about your lives. If you needed to learn something and solve a problem like William did, would you be able to do that? **What would be something in your life that you could work towards solving?**

We can also be like William and keep trying. It took him 7 years to build his "Green Machine". We should always keep working towards our goals.

Optional ideas: Have students make a paper windmill from the pattern