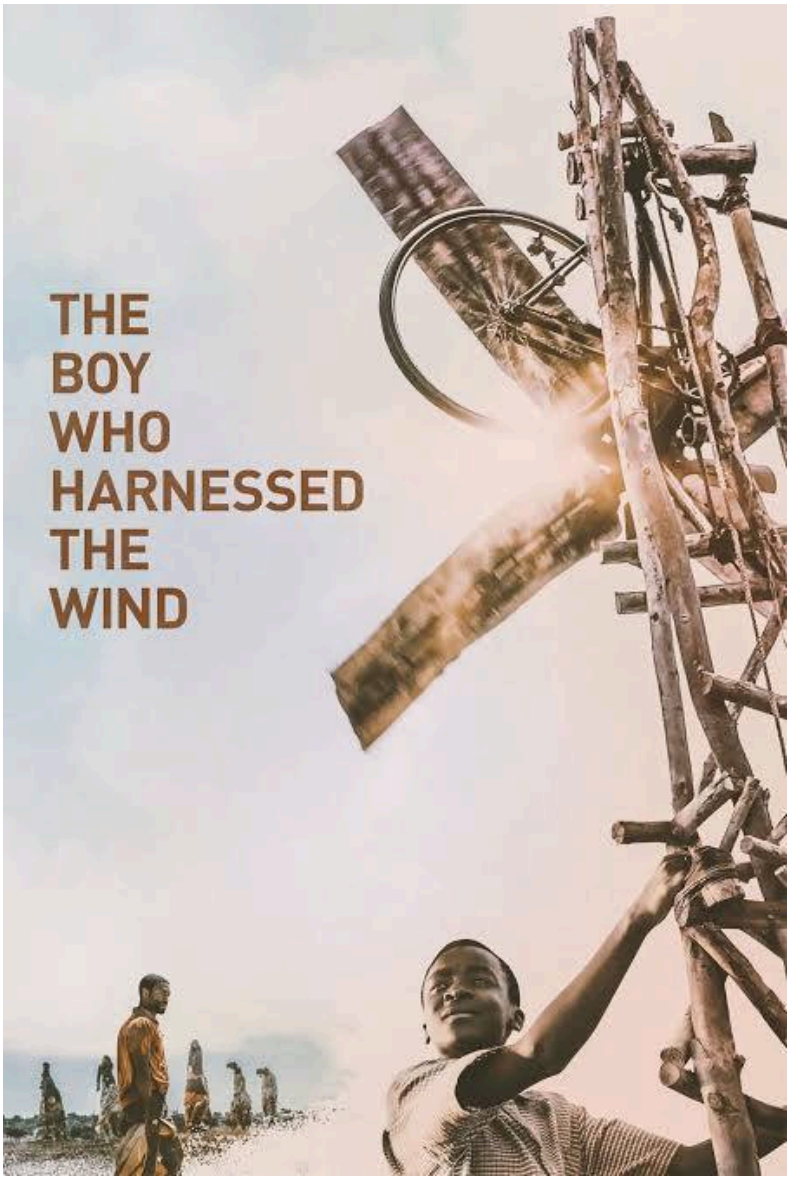
Summer Reading
Students Starting 6th Grade
Due: Aug 21, 2026

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
By William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer



PDF copy of the novel is available online.
Copies are available at the public library and in book stores.
Audio Version Starting with the Prologue: Prologue

Requirements and Instructions

During the summer, you are expected to read the novel *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. As you read, take notes about William, his struggles and how he overcomes those struggles throughout the novel. After you finish the novel, complete the vocabulary section and written response. Below are a few receourses to help you.

The vocabulary and written response will be due and turned in to your ELA teacher by **August 21, 2026**. We will accept the assignments from the first day of school to August 28th. If you have questions while working on this over the summer, please contact either 6th-grade ELA teachers through our email addresses and we will try to respond.

Ms. Santoro: Jessica.Santoro-Mielentz@sccpss.com

Ms. Bird: Velma.Bird@sccpss.com

Notice and Note Signposts Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPpc4J3EXhk&feature=youtu.be

RACE short response format

- R: Restate the question (as a statement, not a question)
- A: Answer the question
- C: Cite evidence
- E: Explain

Resources: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkPbF2oxCI8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPnt9AFaTdc

Name: _____ Due Date: __August 21, 2026____

Part 1: Vocabulary

Directions: Below are ten vocabulary words from *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Write the part of speech and definition for each vocabulary word in your own words, then use each word in an original sentence.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition	Use the Word in a Sentence
Innovation			
Famine			
Ingenuity			
Perseverance			
Resourceful			
Drought			
Turbine			
Determination			
Malnutrition			
Electricity			

Each vocabulary word, with its part of speech, definition, and sentence, is worth 10 points.

Vocabulary Score ____/100

Part 2: Constructed Response

Directions: Answer the following question in a well-developed paragraph. Use evidence from the text to support your response. The rubric is below.

Question: William Kamkwamba faced many challenges while building his windmill, including a lack of resources and skepticism from others. How did William's perseverance and creativity help him overcome these obstacles? Give specific examples from the novel to support your answer.
Purpose: To demonstrate an understanding of a characters development through the novel.
Audience: Teachers

RACE Rubric for Short Constructed Response Items

Criteria	3	2	1	0
Restate the question	The question/topic is carefully incorporated into the answer, to include the title and author of the text, if one is provided. *Ex: Question: How does Jacob's use imagery in "The Monkey's Paw"? Restate with answer: Jacob's uses imagery in "The Monkey's Paw" to create a feeling of suspense and mystery.*	The question is restated directly in the response. *Ex: Question: How does Jacobs use imagery in "The Monkey's Paw"? Restate: Jacobs uses imagery in "The Monkey's Paw."*	The question is partially restated, but it is not clear.	There is no attempt to restate or incorporate the question or topic in the response.
Answer the question clearly	The response shows that inferences were made based on the evidence in order to arrive at an insightful answer to the question. The question is completely answered.	The answer to the question is surface-level only and does not show that deep analysis leading to inferencing occurred.	The answer is so general that it could have been written for another question. **OR** The question is only partially answered.	There is no answer to the question. **OR** The answer has nothing to do with the question.
Cite evidence and examples	There are 2 or more relevant examples that directly support the answer. Attribution is given when evidence is cited (line number, page, paragraph, author) especially when	There is one relevant example that directly supports the answer. Attribution may or may not be present.	There are one or more examples that are not relevant or do not support the answer.	There are no examples.
Explain, Extend, Elaborate	The response shows that the evidence has been analyzed. The student uses transitional phrases to clearly explain how each piece of evidence supports the answer.	There is an explanation of how the evidence collectively supports the answer.	There is an attempt to explain how the evidence supports the answer.	There is no explanation of how the evidence supports the answer.
Reread & Revise	There is evidence that the response has been checked. All parts of RACE are present. There are no errors in grammar or mechanics.	There is evidence that the response has been checked. All parts of RACE are present. There are no more than 3 errors in grammar or mechanics.	There is little evidence that the response has been checked. Parts of RACE are missing from the response. Errors begin to interfere with the meaning of the response.	There is no evidence that the response has been checked. RACE has not been used to help organize a response. **OR** There is no response to the question.
Concluding Statement	The concluding statement does more than restate the question and summarize the answer; it answers the question "So what?"	A concluding sentence is provided where the question is restated and the answer is summarized.	An attempt is made to sum up the response.	There is no attempt to sum up the response. **OR** There is no response.

Your Response: