

# Overview



# The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

## Overview

We will read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer and a series of related literary and informational texts to explore the question, How can challenges fuel curiosity, innovation, and change? We will express our understanding through an essay that explains how challenges can fuel innovation and progress by using evidence from at least two unit texts.

## Essential Question

How can challenges fuel curiosity, innovation, and change?

# Culminating Task Prompt

## Prompt:

Throughout the unit, you've read several texts in which individuals have responded to challenges related to their environment. What is a central idea that is communicated about the relationship between challenge and progress in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and at least one other unit text? Write an essay that explains how the authors develop this central idea in each of the texts.

Be sure to:

- Identify a central idea about the relationship between challenge and progress that is developed in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and one other unit text.
- Explain how the central idea is developed in each text using textual evidence from each text.
- Organize your essay using an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.
- Use transition words and phrases to ensure your essay flows logically.
- Use language, syntax, and conventions appropriately.

# Section Diagnostics

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Section	Lesson	Section Diagnostic	Revised Section Diagnostic	Culminating Task Connections
1	7	<p>Develop a two-paragraph response to the following questions. In your response, use evidence from the text to support your response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What conclusions can you draw about William Kamkwamba's character based on Chapters One-Four of <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>?</li> <li>• How is his perspective different from those in his community?</li> </ul>		<p>Students demonstrate an understanding of William Kamkwamba's character traits and values based on the anecdotes he provides in the text. Students should note the ways in which Kamkwamba demonstrates curiosity and ingenuity from a young age, even when this goes against his cultural beliefs. This prepares students to develop a strong understanding of William's character and his responses to challenges, which will be essential for the culminating task response. Students also demonstrate their ability to form and support claims using textual evidence in discussion. This prepares students to write an essay in which they form and support claims in writing.</p>
2	8	<p>Students respond to the following prompt: Identify a theme that is conveyed in both "Epitaph for the Race of Man: X" and <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>. How does each author develop the theme? Write an introductory paragraph and two body paragraphs to respond to the prompt. Use evidence from both texts to support your response.</p>		<p>Students demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which William Kamkwamba and his family respond to the extreme hardships they faced during Malawi's famine in 2001. Students also determine a theme of a related poem and make connections between the themes and ideas of both texts. This prepares students to consider how individuals respond in the face of challenges and how challenges can actually fuel progress and growth.</p> <p>Students also demonstrate their ability to determine themes, form and support claims with evidence, and connect ideas across texts. This prepares students to write an essay in which they support their claim with ideas from multiple texts.</p>
3	6	<p>Throughout Chapters Nine through Twelve of <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>, William faces a series of personal setbacks and challenges. How do the challenges that William faces contribute to his decisions and reveal aspects of his character? Write an introductory paragraph and three body paragraphs to respond to the prompt. Ensure each paragraph has a topic sentence and evidence from the text to support the claim.</p>		<p>Students demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which William Kamkwamba responds to the challenges that he faces and, against all odds, successfully builds a working windmill. This prepares students to consider how individuals respond in the face of challenge, and how challenges can actually fuel progress and growth. Students also demonstrate their ability to form and</p>

				support claims with evidence in writing. This prepares students to write an essay in which they develop and support a claim with text evidence.
4	6	<p>Students engage in a formal, whole-class discussion. Consider William Kamkwamba's experiences and story, and the informational text(s) on human resilience. What key lessons does Kamkwamba learn as a result of his experiences? What central idea does the text convey about the human spirit? What key ideas can we learn from Kamkwamba's life and the scientific research on resilience to apply to our own lives?</p>	<p>Students write a multi paragraph response to the following questions:</p> <p>Write an essay about what people can learn from challenges.</p> <p>In your essay, explain what <b>William Kamkwamba</b> learns from his experiences in <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> and how those lessons connect to the idea of <b>human resilience</b> in the informational text(s).</p> <p>Be sure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the important lessons Kamkwamba learns</li> <li>● Identify a central idea about the human spirit</li> <li>● Describe how both the story and the informational text(s) show resilience</li> <li>● Explain how these lessons can be applied to your own life</li> </ul> <p>Use evidence from both texts to support your ideas.</p>	<p>Students demonstrate their understanding of Booth's motivations and beliefs. This prepares students to write an argumentative essay about the internal and external motivations of people, including historical figures.</p>
5	5	<p>In small-groups, students create and share presentations about the individual that they read about from <i>Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet</i> by Harriet Rohmer.</p> <p>What is a central idea about how humans can impact the environment that is conveyed by both <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> and the chapter you read from <i>Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet</i>?</p>	<p>Students could work in partners or small groups Students could work individually.</p> <p>Possible options for presentation: →Slideshow →One Pager →Infographic</p>	<p>Students read and present about a variety of individuals who when faced with challenges, like Kamkwamba, responded in ways that fueled innovation and progress for the environment and their communities. These examples can be used to support students in writing the culminating task essay.</p> <p>Students also demonstrate their ability to form and support claims using textual evidence, and create clear, compelling presentations to share with peers. This prepares students to form and support claims in writing an expository essay.</p>

# Learning Log

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[Section 1](#)

[Section 2](#)

[Section 3](#)

[Section 4](#)

[Section 5](#)

[Section 6](#)

# Text Access

<b>Text Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>	<b>Genre/Format</b>	<b>Guidebook Use</b>	<b>Access</b>
<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer	Novel	Sections one-six	Purchase (book)
"A Tour of Malawi, the 'Warm Heart of Africa'"	Marcus Westberg, The New York Times	Article	Section one; Core	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Unit Reader <a href="#">Digital Access</a>
Political Map of Africa		Map	Section one; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
Physical Map of Africa		Map	Section one; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
Malawi Map		Map	Section one; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
Political Map of Malawi		Map	Section one; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
Physical Map of Malawi		Map	Section one; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
"Debunking Common Myths and Stereotypes About Africa"	Aperian Global		Section one; Core	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Unit Reader <a href="#">Digital Access</a>
"Epitaph for the Race of Man: X"	Edna St. Vincent Millay	Poem	Section two; Core	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Unit Reader <a href="#">Digital Access</a>
"Windmill Diagram"	LDOE	Image	Section three; Core	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Unit Reader <a href="#">Digital Access</a>
"How I Built a Windmill"	William Kamkwamba, TED Talk	Video	Section four; Core	<a href="#">Digital Access</a>
"What Makes Some People More Resilient Than Others"	Eilene Zimmerman	Article	Section four; Core	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Unit Reader <a href="#">Digital Access</a>
<i>Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet</i>	Harriet Rohmer	Non-Fiction	Section five; Core	Purchase (book)