

# THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

1.03

William Kamkwamba lives in Malawi, Africa, where most people don't have access to **electricity** or running water.<sup>1</sup> They have to cook over open fires and collect water from wells or streams. Poverty is very high; only 2 percent of Malawians can **afford** electricity. In addition, most people have to grow their own food. Life is difficult there, and many people **struggle** to survive.

In 2001, when William was 14 years old, life in Malawi became even more difficult. There was a severe drought,<sup>2</sup> and most families—including William's—couldn't grow enough food. He explains, "Within five months all Malawians began to starve to death. My family ate one meal per day, at night."

Because of the drought, William's family couldn't afford to send him to school anymore. However, William wanted to continue his education, so he went to the library near his home one day. He found a science book there called *Using Energy*. It included instructions for building a windmill. Windmills can be very **efficient** sources of electricity, and they can bring water up from underground. William didn't know much English, and he wasn't able to understand most of the book, but it was full of pictures and diagrams.<sup>3</sup> Looking at the pictures, William thought he could build a windmill for his family.

<sup>1</sup>Running water is water that is brought into a building through pipes.

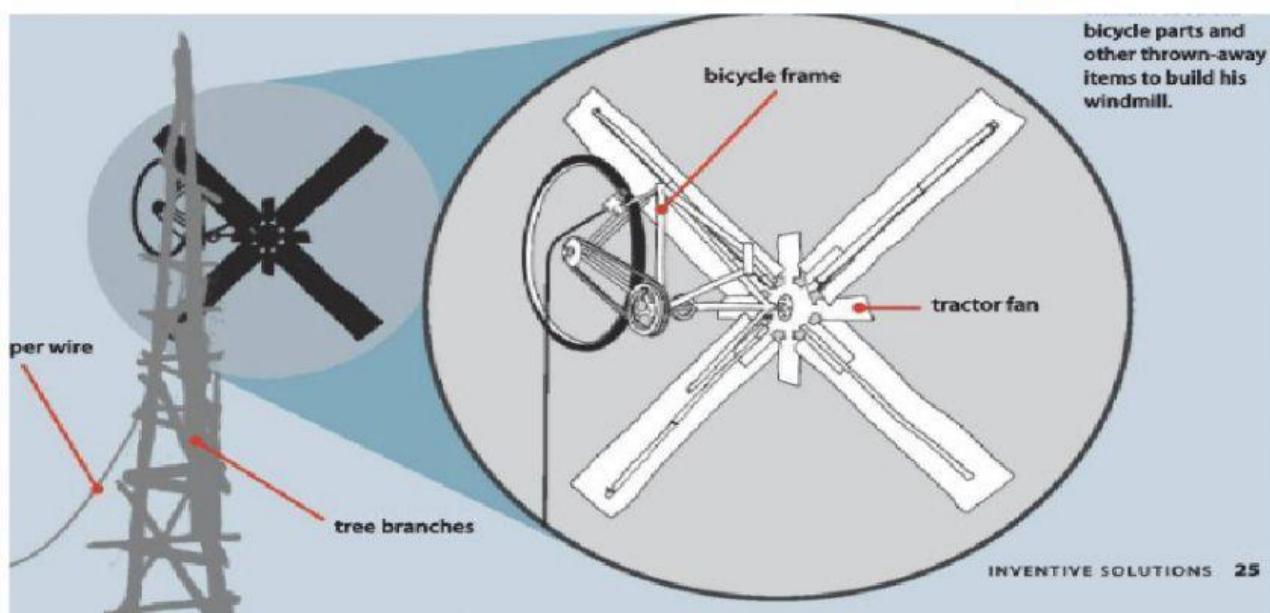
<sup>2</sup>A drought is a long period of time with no rain.

<sup>3</sup>Diagrams are drawings that show how something (e.g., a machine) works.



▲ William Kamkwamba at a speaking event in 2013

◀ William used old



**A** Choose the best alternative title for the reading passage.

- a. Windmills—Africa's Hope for the Future
- b. Advice from a Young Inventor
- c. The Boy Who Brought Electricity—and Hope

**B** Answer the questions below using information from the reading passage.

1. Why did life become very difficult for William's family in 2001?

There was a \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did people in William's village think of his idea at first?

People \_\_\_\_\_ his idea and didn't believe he could do it.

3. How did William's first windmill help people in his village?

People used it to get \_\_\_\_\_ for their cell phones.

**C: Read the statements and decide whether they are True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG).**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Williams is an African whose family didn't get much access to water, food and electricity.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Life in Williams's neighbourhood became even more extreme when he was 14 years old.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ During his hardship, a book changed his life forever.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Because of his poor English skills, Williams first thought he couldn't build the windmill.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Williams used rope to tighten his windmill's base.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ His first windmill was exactly.