



# Extra Training

## Reading Task 8726

Read the text, then choose the correct answers.

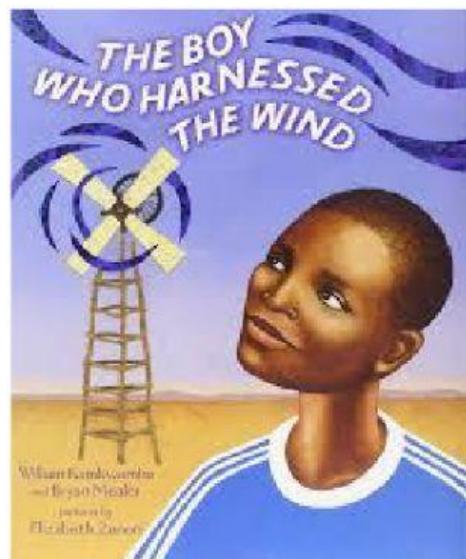
Every night, William Kamkwamba's sisters would huddle around the faint light of a kerosene lamp to read and study in the hope of a better future. That was before their brother, who was only fourteen at the time, built windmills that brought electricity to his village of Masitala in Malawi, Africa. Now, this self-taught inventor is setting his sights even higher, aiming to light up an entire country! It all began with the famine of 2001 when food was so scarce in Malawi that ten thousand people died of starvation.

William's family survived on just one meal a day, but they didn't have enough money to afford the \$80-a-year tuition fees for William's school. Forced to drop out, he refused to give up and carried on his education from textbooks in the small local library. There he learnt all about electricity and motors, but it was the cover of one book in a particular that truly captured his imagination. It showed windmills. "With a windmill, I could stay awake at night reading instead of going to bed at seven with the rest of Malawi," William realised, "We'd finally release ourselves from the troubles of darkness and hunger."

He set about building one from an old bicycle and pieces of scrap metal from tractors. Ignoring the other villagers (including his mother), who thought he was crazy, over two months he managed to assemble a 5-metre-high windmill that supplied enough power to light four small light bulbs. In a country where only 2% of the population has access to electricity; this was like a miracle! Villagers came from all around to see the 'electric wind'. With the addition of another windmill that helped irrigate his father's crops, William was transforming his village through renewable energy all by himself. News of the boy who built windmills spread through blogs and newspaper articles. Bryan Mealer, an American journalist, had spent five years in Africa when he heard about William. He immediately knew that this was the story that he had been waiting for and in 2009, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, was published.

Soon, influential people started to see that William was a real **asset** to his country and before long, he was invited to speak at conferences, he had documentaries made about him and universities abroad were offering him scholarships.

William is currently studying for a degree in America, but he plans to return home with more ideas to help his village. Thanks to generous donations, Masitala now has clean drinking water and solar panels. William also finished a project to build new classrooms for his old primary school which is equipped with laptops that run on energy from his windmills. He still worries about his mother, though: "I haven't solved the problem of firewood. Each day, my mother has no choice but to walk three hours to collect a handful of wood to cook the family meal." It's a walk that gets longer every day as Malawi loses about 500 sq. kilometres of forest every year due to illegal deforestation. Experiments with solar ovens made out of tinfoil haven't quite worked out yet, so for the moment William has turned to a more hands-on method - planting more trees. William Kamkwamba might not have the solution for everything just yet, but he's a shining example of all that can be achieved when just one person dreams of a better world.



1. William and his sisters used kerosene lamps because \_\_\_\_\_

1. they wanted a better future,
2. it helped save electricity.
3. they enjoyed reading at night.
4. it was the only light source they had.

2. Why did William leave school?

1. He couldn't pay for his lessons.
2. He needed to work to help feed his family.
3. He dropped out through lack of interest.
4. He was able to get a better education at the library.

3. In little more than 8 weeks William managed to \_\_\_\_\_

1. build windmills all around his village.
2. produce small amounts of electricity for his village.
3. provide two per cent of his country's electricity.
4. end the villagers' food and money problems.

4. How did Bryan Mealer hear about William?

1. In a book written by an American journalist.
2. From various reports in blogs and articles.
3. At a conference he was invited to.
4. In a documentary that was made about him.

5. In paragraph 4, '**asset**' is used to show that William \_\_\_\_\_

1. could be of good use to his country.
2. had impressed some important people.
3. was an excellent public speaker.
4. would do very well at university.

6. At the moment William is \_\_\_\_\_

1. installing solar panels in his village.
2. studying at a foreign university.
3. building new classrooms at his old school.
4. collecting donations for his projects.

7. William's mother has to \_\_\_\_\_

1. cook with a solar oven.
2. plant trees for firewood.
3. prepare only one meal a day.
4. walk great distances daily.

8. The writer's purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_

1. relate an inspiring story.
2. advertise William's inventions.
3. encourage others to become inventors.
4. promote a book.