

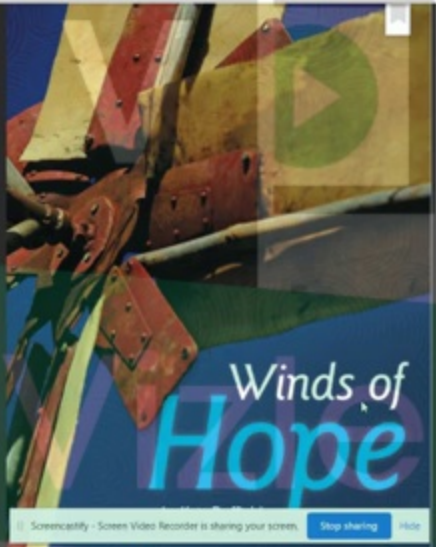
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Winds of Hope



Winds of Hope

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Winds of Hope

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7 From this book William learned that wind—something of which Malawi had plenty—could produce electricity. William was delighted! Only two percent of the houses in Malawi have electricity. If William could build a windmill, his family could have lights in their home. And a windmill could be used to pump water to **irrigate** the family's maize fields. If another drought came, the windmill could provide the water for life.

8 William could picture in his mind the windmill he wanted to build, but collecting the parts and tools he needed would take months. In a junkyard across from the high school, William dug through piles of twisted metal, rusted cars, and worn-out tractors, searching for anything that might help him construct his machine. He took a ring of ball bearings from an old peanut grinder and the cooling fan from a tractor engine. Cracking open a shock absorber, he removed the steel piston inside. He made four-foot-long blades from plastic pipe, which he melted over a fire, flattened out, and stiffened with bamboo poles.


9 Earning some money loading logs into a truck, he paid a welder to attach the piston to the pedal sprocket of an old bicycle frame. This would be the axle of the windmill. When the wind blew, the rotating blades would turn the bicycle wheel, like someone pedaling, and spin a small dynamo. Although he had no money for a dynamo, a friend came to the rescue and bought one from a man in the road, right off his bike.

10 When he had collected all the parts, William took them out of the corner of his bedroom, laid them outside in the shade of an acacia tree, and began to assemble them together. Since he did not have a drill to make bolt holes, he


11 William knew this was his moment—his moment to show everyone he wasn't crazy, to find out if his experiment would work. He connected two wires from the dynamo to a light socket he'd made from a reed and that held a small bulb. As the wind whipped around him, he removed the bent spoke he'd jammed into the wheel to lock it. Then he held his breath...

12 The blades began to turn, slowly at first, then faster and faster. The light bulb flickered, then flashed to life. The crowd cheered from below.

13 A month later William found enough wire to reach from the windmill into his house. His family crowded around to marvel as the small bulb lit up in William's room. Reading *Explaining Physics* by its light, he stayed up long after others had gone to bed.



William's cousin climbs one of the windmills on the Kamwamba farm.



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Winds of Hope

Winds of Hope
by Katy Duffield

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Winds of Hope

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