

Thomas Hart Academy
7th Grade ELA Summer Reading 2023

Mrs. Debra Beckham

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can not read them.

- - *Mark Twain*

Although we hope that 7th grade ELA students will read for pleasure throughout the summer, they will be responsible for reading *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, and answer the questions below. **Students should bring their assignments to class on the first day of school on Thursday, August 3, 2023.**

Directions for Summer Reading 2023 *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*

Type responses to the following questions in a separate document. Answer questions thoroughly and in complete sentences. Cite textual evidence when necessary. Your document should be in MLA format and printed. (You may number your answers.)

1. How did the villagers compensate for not having electricity, telephones, or most of the modern conveniences we take for granted?
2. What is the role of magic in the story?
3. What motivates people like William to attempt the unthinkable?
4. How would you describe William to someone who has never heard of his achievement?
5. Malawi is an extremely poor nation. What are the causes of this poverty and what exacerbates it? How might these causes and influences be overcome?
6. William was desperate to stay in school but could not because of money. Think about American students. Why do you think with all the opportunities for schooling, students are disinterested in learning? In your opinion, what accounts for the differences between William and his American counterparts?
7. Many Americans criticize public schools and some even question the need for them. Others argue that money doesn't matter when it comes to education. How does William's experience address our own debates on the subject? Think about his school, and compare it to American schools. Might William's life be different if he had access to education without having to pay?
8. What lessons did you take away from William's story?