

Homework: Write Summary and Analyze Structure: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, Chapter 11

(Answers for Teacher Reference)

Directions: Reread chapter 11 of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Then, answer the questions below.

1. Part A

Which of the following best describes the structure used by the writers in this text?

- a. Cause/Effect
- b. Problem/Solution
- c. Chronological/Sequential
- d. Compare/Contrast

Reread these sentences from chapter 11:

“The following afternoon I began assembling the machine” (187).

“I finally came down when the bulb started to burn my hand” (201).

“That first night with light, I stayed awake reading *Explaining Physics*, trying to prepare for my next step” (207).

Part B

Which of the following best describes the function of these three sentences within the structure of the chapter?

- a. Each of these sentences marks an important moment in the sequence of events.
- b. Each of these sentences introduces a problem William faces as he builds the windmill.
- c. Each of these sentences contrasts William’s earlier tries at building the windmill with this one.
- d. Each of these sentences details how William was thinking as he built the windmill.

Part C

How do these sentences help to develop a central idea of this chapter?

The sentences mark important moments in the sequence of William's design process as he builds his windmill in chapter 11. They reinforce the chronological/sequential structure of the chapter. These sentences work together to lay out the timeline. First, he got the dynamo at the end of chapter 10, next his invention works, and then he wants to continue refining his solution. The sequence of events in the chapter help to convey the central idea that William perseveres, achieves his goals, and looks ahead to see what he can accomplish next.

2. Write an effective summary of chapter 11 of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

Chapter 11 of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* chronicles William's assembly of the windmill and the illumination of William's bedroom. A central idea of this chapter is that William's hard work and resourceful nature lead to a fully functioning windmill that produces electricity. William lacks modern tools; therefore, he uses accessible materials to build the windmill. He spends three hours in the repetitive process of heating a nail to poke holes in the plastic blades of the windmill. After realizing that he cannot properly fasten the windmill blades, William collects bottle caps then hammers them out to serve as washers. He uses everyday materials to construct the windmill. William, Geoffrey, and Gilbert build the windmill tower and hoist the windmill into place. With a crowd of onlookers, William connects a lightbulb and the windmill produces the electricity William has been working to achieve.

Source: Kamkwamba, William, and Bryan Mealer. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Readers Edition). Puffin Books, 2015.