

Finding the Gist and Unfamiliar Vocabulary: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Text	Gist What is it mostly about?	Unfamiliar Vocabulary	Meaning (use a dictionary if you need to)
Pages 3–6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beginning with “In a small village ...”Ending with “... your foot.”	<i>William lived in a small village in Malawi and wondered how machines worked.</i>	<i>poor</i> <i>tales</i> <i>maize</i>	<i>without money or basic possessions</i> <i>stories</i> <i>a type of corn</i>
Pages 8–11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beginning with “For all its ...”Ending with “... the Americans.”	<i>There was a drought, so the crops stopped growing. The people in William’s village began to starve.</i>	<i>scorched</i> <i>starve</i> <i>sulked</i>	<i>dried out with heat</i> <i>to suffer from not eating</i> <i>moped or pouted</i>

Text	Gist What is it mostly about?	Unfamiliar Vocabulary	Meaning (use a dictionary if you need to)
Pages 12–15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning with “He found ...” Ending with “... electric wind.” 	<i>William remembered the library in his village. He went and read books about machines. He decided to try to build a windmill to make electricity and pump water.</i>	<i>engines</i> <i>windmills</i> <i>electricity</i>	<i>machines that use energy to do work</i> <i>machines that use energy from the wind</i> <i>a kind of energy that is used for light and heat and for making things operate</i>
Pages 16–21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning with “In the junk yard ...” Ending with “... for the wind.” 	<i>William gathered supplies from the junkyard. He used what he gathered to build a windmill.</i>	<i>arranged</i> <i>tinkered</i>	<i>put in an order, set up</i> <i>made or repaired something by experimenting</i>
Pages 22–29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning with “Like always ...” Ending with “... magic of all.” 	<i>The wind moved the blades of the windmill, and the power of the wind lit up a light bulb. The electricity powered pumps that brought water to the fields.</i>	<i>connected</i> <i>flickered</i>	<i>joined together</i> <i>burned or shined in an unsteady way</i>

Text	Gist What is it mostly about?	Unfamiliar Vocabulary	Meaning (use a dictionary if you need to)
Page 30 • Beginning with “William Kamkwamba was ...” • Ending with “... William thought.”	<i>William Kamkwamba grew up in Malawi. Because of a severe drought, he had to drop out of school. He went to a library and read books about science. He had the idea to build a windmill to help his village.</i>	famine intrigued	a great lack of food over a wide area interested, fascinated
Page 31 • Beginning with “The pieces William ...” (bottom of page 30) • Ending with “... pumping water in villages.”	<i>William used parts from other machines to build his windmill. He figured out how to build it so it would produce electricity. Eventually he built his Green Machine, which pumped water to his mother’s garden.</i>	generator irrigated	a machine or device that produces electricity or other energy brought in water for land or crops