

Dear Soon-to-Be Eighth Grader,

Welcome to your last year at St. James. You have made it through many years of education, and you are entering a new journey. This year will be filled with much excitement and anticipation, but it will also be filled with obstacles and challenges. To help you develop some skills to handle obstacles to come, you will be reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. This is the true story about a young man from Malawi who overcame many obstacles in his quest for an education and better opportunities. This book is available at the Stratford library for free or for purchase at Amazon.com or other book sellers.

When you arrive back for the first day of school, you will turn in all the required assignments. In addition there will be an in class essay on the book during the first week of school.

Please note than any suspicion of plagiarism such as copying from the book jacket, publisher's notes, internet summaries, etc. will result in an indisputable 0 which will have a serious impact on your first marking period literature grade. We have read the book and we know the different internet sites dedicated to this book. We are only asking that you read one book and so we expect that you will read the book and not just internet summaries. Remember that first marking period grades are critical to private high school acceptance and public high school placement.

Below is a tear off that you and your parent must sign and return no later than June 12th. Ten points will be deducted from your test grade in September if this tear off is not returned on time.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Agoglia  
Mr. Bishop

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We have read the cover letter and are aware that incoming eighth grade students are expected to read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and complete the assignments. We also understand that the assignments are due on the first day of school and **no late work will be accepted.**

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Tear off due no later than June 12.**

Assignment A

William Kamkwamba faced many obstacles in his quest for an education and in his quest for a better life for his family. On this chart, list five major obstacles that Mr. Kamkwamba faced. You must include an exact quote from the book and use correct parenthetical citations. In the next column write how Mr. Kamkwamba overcame this obstacle.

<b>Obstacle (include exact quote from book)</b>	<b>How Mr. Kamkwamba overcame obstacle</b>
<b>Example: William is afraid he is going to die or be cursed for taking the gum from the herding boys.</b> “But then, as if a dark cloud had passed over the sun, I felt the great eye of the wizard watching me through the trees. I’d eaten his juju and now his darkness owned me” (Kamkwamba and Mealer 37).	<b>William tries to fix the problem himself, but he realizes that he needs to tell his father what happened. His father goes to see the grader and pays for the gum – which was a full week’s pay. William showed courage in facing up to what he had done wrong.</b>


## **Assignment B**

**You just read about what life is like for young people in Malawi. Sadly, this is not an unusual occurrence. You will research a problem facing young people in a third world country and what is being done to help. The problems could be access to education, water, food, health care, etc. You can research groups such as Catholic Relief Services, Heifer International, Save the Children, Americares, Oxfam, etc. to see what these groups are doing. You could also look up [www.movingwindmills.org](http://www.movingwindmills.org) to see a documentary about William with footage from his village. You will create a short visual presentation. You can either do a power point presentation or use a poster board (no larger than 16" x 20")**

**Your presentation must include the following:**

- **You must list the problem you are discussing**
- **You must identify some solutions to this problem**
- **You must identify a group that is working to solve this particular problem and how successful this group has been**
- **What you can do to help**