



WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA



EARLY LIFE

William Kamkwamba was born on 5 August 1987 in a small village called Masitala, in Malawi, Africa. He grew up in a family of farmers and enjoyed helping his parents on the farm. William loved learning and was curious about how things worked, even though his family did not have much money.

A TOUGH TIME FOR THE FAMILY

When William was 13 years old, his village faced a terrible drought. The rains stopped, and crops could not grow. People did not have enough food to eat, and life became very hard for everyone, including William's family. It was also difficult for his parents to pay his school fees, so he had to stop going to school.

VILLAGE LIBRARY

William missed school but was determined to keep learning. He started visiting a small library in his village. There, he found books about science and electricity. Even though the books were written in English, a language he was still learning, William worked hard to understand them.

BUILDING A LIBRARY

One day, William read a book about windmills. He discovered that a windmill could produce electricity and even pump water. This gave him an idea to help his family and village. Using materials he found around the village, such as old bicycle parts, wood, and scrap metal, William began building his own windmill. People thought he was wasting his time, but he kept going.

BRINGING LIGHT AND WATER

After many weeks of hard work, William's windmill was ready. It worked! The windmill powered a small lightbulb in his family's home. Later, he built another windmill that could pump water for the village. William's invention changed life in his community, making it easier for people to grow food and have electricity.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

William's story spread across the world, and people were amazed by what he had achieved. He was invited to share his story in different countries, and he even wrote a book called *The Boy Who Harnessed the*



Wind. William later went back to school and attended university. Today, he continues to help people in Africa by teaching them how to use technology to improve their lives.

A LESSON FOR US ALL

William's story shows that with determination, creativity, and a love of learning, it is possible to overcome even the hardest challenges. His work has inspired people everywhere to dream big and never give up.

FIND OUT MORE...

[William Kamkwamba facts for kids](#)

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Where was William Kamkwamba born, and when was he born?
2. What caused the drought in William's village, and how did it affect his family?
3. What inspired William to start building a windmill?
4. What materials did William use to build his windmill?
5. How did William's invention help his family and his village?