



# Eleanor Roosevelt High School

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## **Eleanor Roosevelt HS Summer Reading 2019** **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer**

Dear ERHS Students & Families,

This summer the entire ERHS community will read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. This book offers a wonderful opportunity for the entire school community to have a shared reading experience and discuss a powerful story of resilience.

Set in a small village in Malawi, the book is a memoir of William Kamkwamba's early life. It chronicles the struggles and challenges of growing up as the son of poor farmers, the beauty of discovering an academic passion, and the triumph of bringing electricity to friends and family through the miracles of science.

School-wide Assignment:

1. Read the novel over the summer. Copies will be provided to all ERHS students. Parents/Guardians are highly encouraged to read it as well.
2. Write a 1-2 page letter (handwritten, or typed and double-spaced). Address the letter to your advisor ("Dear \_\_\_\_\_,") Submit a hard copy in Advisory during the first week of school. Please cite any passages that support your response.

In your letter, choose three or more of the following and address them in separate paragraphs:

- How does Kamkwamba's experience relate to your experience with community service?
- What science, experimentation, or invention connections can you make to his story?
- What connections can you make to social studies, geography, economics, environmental issues can you make to his story?
- If you could meet Kamkwamba, what would you ask him?
- What do you find most impressive or admirable about his story?
- How does Kamkwamba's upbringing compare with yours? What are some notable things you can refer to in your response?
- What have you learned from and gained by reading this book?

Please note that all members of the ERHS Faculty/Administration/Staff are also reading this book. We encourage all academic classes to make a connection to this text, whether in Social Studies, English, Math, Science, etc. and to share how it connected to each of us individually and collectively.