

RSC



# THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND

A **NEW** MUSICAL



**ART & DESIGN**  
EDUCATION RESOURCE



## **COSTUME**

The patterned cloths that women across Africa, including Malawi, often wear are called chitenjes. Although they are a simple rectangle of cloth, they can be worn and used practically in a wide variety of ways. They are typically 2 metres x 1 metre in dimension.

### **ACTIVITY - 1001 WAYS TO USE A CHITENJE**

- During the production, what were the different ways that chitenjes were worn as an item of clothing?
- During the production, what were the different ways that chitenjes were used practically but not as an item of clothing?

**Using a similar sized (2m x 1m) piece of fabric, experiment with different ways of using it as an item of clothing or for a practical purpose**

- Can you turn a chitenje into: A skirt, a dress, a shawl?
- Can you turn a chitenje into: A bag, a headdress, a baby carrier?
- Are you able to carry a baby-sized object on your back using a chitenje?

### **ACTIVITY - RESEARCHING CHITENJE DESIGNS**

If you do an internet image search for Malawi and chitenje, you will find a variety of designs. Are you able to find examples of the following?

- Abstract patterns
- Maps of Malawi and Africa
- Logos for various organisations including political parties
- Faces of real people (which people do you often see represented?)
- Images of Malawian homes and domestic objects such as pots and cooking implements
- Images of Malawian nature and wildlife - plants and animals
- Images of weapons and shields

## ACTIVITY - DESIGNING YOUR OWN CHITENJE

Chitenjes are often used to show aspects of the communities people come from. There will be images of their homes and the nature that surrounds them. There will also be images of the everyday things that would be found in their homes. Chitenjes are also often used to show a connection to different organisations including political parties.

The patterns on chitenjes are repeated across the length of the fabric in different sizes and orientations.

- If you were designing your own chitenje, what images would you use to represent your school or community?
- Which buildings, domestic objects and images of nature best show what your home and community are like?
- Complete a design for your chitenje.



## SET DESIGN

**The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind** takes place in a rural Malawian village. There are many locations used for scenes throughout the production.

- The scrapyard
- The Kamkwamba family house
- Kachokolo School including the Library
- The fields around the Kamkwamba house
- The windmill

**Some locations are shown with lots of details including scenery and props while others are more simply represented.**

- How has the setting of the story influenced the choice of materials and colours for the set?
- What do you notice about the contrast in the colours used for the set compared with colours used for costumes? Why do you think there is a difference?
- Some scenes have very detailed sets involving lots of scenery and props while others are more simply represented. How are the different locations shown in different ways? Why has the set designer made these choices?

### ACTIVITY - DESIGNING THE SET FOR A SCENE

Come up with your own design for the set of **The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind**.

- How will you represent different locations? You can be very detailed or choose to have a more simple and abstract design.

**Set designers produce something called a "white card" presentation where they make a cardboard model of the set before the final design is confirmed.**

- Make a 3-D model of your set design, thinking about how it works practically once actors and performers are on the stage.

