

RSC



**THE BOY WHO
HARNESSED
THE WIND**
A **NEW** MUSICAL



GEOGRAPHY
EDUCATION RESOURCE

"A son of Malawi."

Chief Wimbe

William Kamkwamba was born and raised in the village of Wimbe, near the town of Kasungu in the country of Malawi. In the prologue we are told details of the geography of Malawi.

"[The wind] posed riddles to the lake... and the lake rippled in puzzlement... The wind cleared its throat in the highlands... [the clouds] chased across the skies to pour their proverbs over the maize fields."

Storytellers

RESEARCHING MALAWI

- Where is Malawi located? What countries does it border?
- What are the key geographical features of Malawi?
- What languages are spoken in Malawi?
- What are the main religions practiced in Malawi?
- What "seasons" does Malawi go through?
- What are the major agricultural crops grown in Malawi?
- Which sports are popular in Malawi?
- What genres of music do people in Malawi enjoy?

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN MALAWI

**"The land is too wet. The land is too dry.
You can't do business like that."**

Jeremiah Kamkwamba

Climate change affects different communities around the world in different ways.

- What extremes of weather does Malawi experience? How are these shown in the production?
- What impact does the extreme weather have on the rural farmers like the Kamkwambas?
- How do different characters respond to the negative effects of the extreme weather; think about Trywell, Jeremiah and Mr Kachigunda?
- How is William's plan to build the "windmill" different from how other people responded to the extreme weather?

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN MALAWI

In the show we see Agnes Kamkwamba experiencing illness.

- What are the major health issues faced in Malawi?
- How do Malawians access healthcare; specifically how do rural communities like the people living in Wimbe manage with illness?



EDUCATION IN MALAWI



"We pray to you O God
To help our teachers
To guide and keep us
In Kachokolo School"

School pupils

"We have had students
from this school go on
to university. Did these
people have two heads?"

Mr Ofesi

At the beginning of the show William is about to start at secondary school.

- How is education and schooling organised in Malawi?
- In the show we see a difference in attitude about William's education compared with Annie. What is the difference and why do you think it exists?
- What difficulties does William have when trying to progress with his education? Think about challenges faced both at school and at home.