

RSC



THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND

A **NEW** MUSICAL



MEET THE CHARACTERS
EDUCATION RESOURCE

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

The story is set in Wimbe, Malawi in southern Africa. Wimbe is a rural village of dirt roads leading to simple mud-brick houses with corrugated iron roofs. There is no electricity and no running water. Many families are farmers who grow the food they eat, mostly maize and vegetables, in the fields around their home.



WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA

A 13 year-old school boy destined to be a farmer like his father. But William is not satisfied with stories of magic and superstition. He has a thirst for knowledge and wonders; his mind is full of questions. What? How? Bright, curious and resourceful, he is caught between tradition, honouring his parents and finding modern solutions to age-old problems.

THE KAMKWAMBA FAMILY



TRYWELL KAMKWAMBA

William's father is a giant. The biggest, strongest man in the village. He takes pride in providing for his family but struggles with how to do this when the drought and famine take hold. He has always been a farmer and this is all he knows.



AGNES KAMKWAMBA

William's mother married Trywell against the wishes of her family. She has made sacrifices to build her family life in Wimbe. She encourages and guides her children with wisdom and a hint of subversiveness.



ANNIE KAMKWAMBA

William's older sister. She is as bright as William and also keen to continue her education. Being a girl, nearly a woman now, she is restricted by tradition both in her education and her romantic relationship with William's teacher, Mr Kachingunda.



JEREMIAH KAMKWAMBA

William's cousin and son of Trywell's deceased brother. Jeremiah is a self-proclaimed businessman but too fond of drinking and gambling. He makes short-term decisions with damaging long-term consequences.



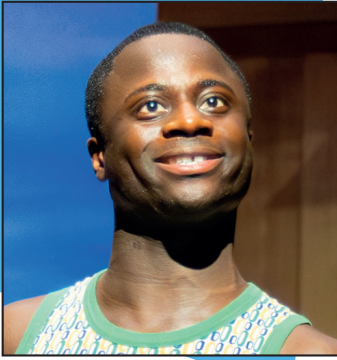
MIKA KAMKWAMBA

Jeremiah's wife is frustrated with her husband. With a new born baby she has fading hopes that Jeremiah can provide for his family.



CHIEF WIMBE

The calm and steady village chief. He offers wise words of counsel to those in dispute and seeks to guide his community when faced with external challenges of floods, droughts and the tobacco company. A brave man willing to speak truth to those in power.



GILBERT MOFAT

Best friend to William and son of the village chief. Gilbert's high spirits and humour mask his anxiety about whether he will be able to take on his father's responsibilities when the time comes.

KACHOKOLO SCHOOL



MR OFESI

The "old guy" and Head Master of Kachokolo School. A strict disciplinarian but very proud of the achievements of his students despite the lack of resources available.



MRS SIKELO

Librarian at Kachokolo School and a gentle voice of encouragement for all of her students. She believes in William's vision when no-one else does.



MR KACHIGUNDA

Science teacher at Kachokolo School. He finds himself compromised between his duties to the school and his romantic relationship with Annie, William's sister.



THE MPHALA BOYS

Young, unmarried men who spend their days discussing the twin riddles of women and football.

CHARITY

The brains of the Mphala Boys - unemployed and single

MIZECK

The muscle of the Mphala Boys although hiding his own intelligence and inquisitiveness

BLESSINGS

Not a blessing but quite feckless

PATIENCE

Named in hope but sadly quick to anger!



KHAMBA

William's "other" best friend. A loyal dog providing moral support and encouragement but also willing to be brave when required.



THE WIND & THE HYENA

Elemental and natural forces. The wind brings the rain and flood but also blows away the clouds causing drought. The hyena stalks the shadows of the village preying on the hungry and weak.