

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Mini-Research Project

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a non-fiction book that tells the story of a young boy growing up in a remote village in Malawi who through his commitment and creativity is able to save his village from the ravages of famine. It is also a compelling story about fate, determination, responsibility, and life. As you read the book, you will be introduced to a culture very different from your own. This small research project is designed to enhance your understanding of the book, the characters, and the culture of Malawi.

For this mini-research project, you are asked to investigate one item on the list below. Using at least two **reliable sources** (not Wikipedia), read about the topic, highlight and take notes on the articles, and prepare a short Powerpoint presentation (no more than 5 slides). Email your completed Powerpoint to me at emily.dover@cherokee.k12.ga.us.

You are the authority. Your job is to teach us all we need to know to fully understand your topic.

Your Powerpoint presentation is **due on Friday, February 27th**. Use your own words to help your classmates understand the topic you researched and thus better understand *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.*

The last slide in your presentation must include your Work Cited page (must have at LEAST 2 sources, in proper MLA format).

Your Powerpoint presentation does not have to be fancy, but it does have to be accurate, grammatically correct, and clearly written in your own words.

Mini-Research Topics

AIDS epidemic in Africa (1)

- Why is AIDS such a big problem in Africa?
- What is being done to address the problem?
- How effective are the efforts to control AIDS?

Famine in Africa (2)

- Where is famine occurring in Africa?
- How extensive is the problem?
- What are the effects?
- What is being done to address the problems?

Malaria in Africa (3)

- How is malaria transmitted?
- How extensive is the disease?
- What are the treatments?
- How effective are the treatments?

Deforestation in Africa (4)

- What is deforestation?
- Why is it a problem?
- What is being done to address the problem?

Drought in Africa (5)

- What African countries are affected by droughts today?
- How extensive is the problem?
- What has been the effect of the droughts?
- What is being done to address the problems?

Education in Malawi (6)

- What is the literacy rate in Malawi?
- What percentage of children graduate high school?
- What percentage graduate college?
- What is the quality of education?
- Is education readily available to all children?

Underage marriages in Africa (7)

- Why are underage marriages prevalent?
- What are the problems associated with underage marriage?
- What is being done to address the problem?

  Marriage rituals in Malawi
  - What are the marriage rituals or customs in Malawi?

Government of Malawi (8)

- What type of government is in power in Malawi?
- How effective is the government?
- Is corruption still a problem?

Farming in Malawi (9)

- What percentage of the population makes their living by farming?
- What crops are grown?
- What problems affect the farmers today?
- What is being done to address the problems?

Cholera in Africa (10)

- What is cholera?
- How is it transmitted?
- How is it treated?
- Is it still a problem in Africa?

Magic in the Malawi culture (11)

- How do Malawi citizens feel about magic today?
- What role does it play in their lives?

Moving Windmills Project (12)

- What is the Moving Windmills project?
- What are the goals of the project?
- How successful has it been?
- How can people get involved?