

Little People, BIG DREAMS®

I Can Be a Curious Inventor



WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA



Little People, BIG DREAMS®

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Frances Lincoln





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You're about to meet
one of the world's greatest
inventors. William had hopes,
fears, joys and challenges
– and his own unique dream.

His story shows that if you follow
your own dream and believe in
yourself, you can do anything!



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I Can Be a
Curious Inventor
WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA



Written by
Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by
Kirsti Beautyman

In a village in Malawi, Africa,
there lived a boy called William
who had a very curious mind.





His parents grew corn, and every day after school William and his six sisters helped them work the farm.

One year, it rained so little that the fields dried up and the crops didn't grow.





With no corn to sell, William's family could no longer afford to send him to school.

But that didn't stop William from learning!
Whenever he could, he went to the library.



There, he found a book that sparked a great idea: using the power of wind to generate electricity, which could, eventually, pump water to the corn fields.



William decided to build a windmill to help his family. He knew it wouldn't be easy...



... but, little by little, he found all the materials he needed: tractor parts, a pipe, a bicycle wheel...



After months of hard work, the windmill was finished. It looked like a tall giant with long arms.





As soon as the wind started blowing, the blades began to turn, making electricity and lighting up the tiny bulb at his feet!



The next day, a long line of neighbours showed up to charge their mobile phones using the electricity from the windmill.

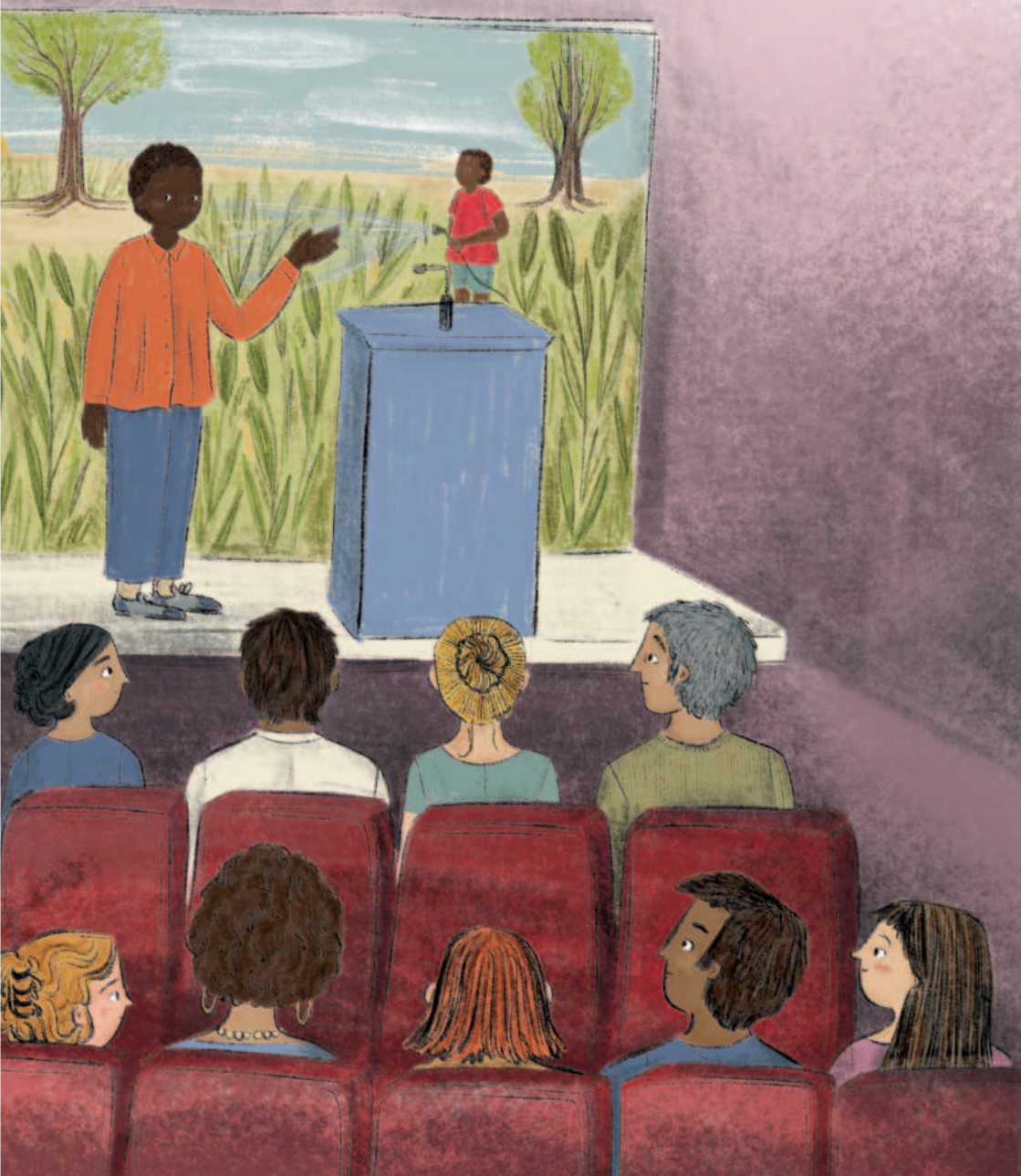
When William's windmill made the news a few years later, he was invited to a neighbouring country to tell his story to a large group of people.



William felt a little overwhelmed. He had never left his home, seen an airplane or slept in a hotel.



But his story of ingenuity touched the hearts of the audience. Several people even promised to pay for his education.





For years William studied across the world, and earned a university degree in environmental science.



He wanted to become an inspiring leader
and make the world a better place.

When he finished his studies he started “Moving Windmills”, a foundation open to all aspiring problem-solvers.



It encourages people to share ideas to do incredible things, like provide clean water and help schools.





And little William's passion for learning and helping others teaches us a valuable lesson:



anything is possible when dreams
are powered by hard work, creativity
and determination.

Glossary

Overwhelmed – if someone is feeling overwhelmed, they are feeling strong emotions that are difficult to handle

Ingenuity – skill at solving problems

Environmental science – the study of the environment (everything around us on Earth, including air, soil, water, plants and animals) and how humans affect it

Foundation – an organisation set up to help a particular group of people

Aspiring – hoping to achieve something and working towards it

Little People, BIG DREAMS®

I Can Be a Curious Inventor

Discover the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream.

As a teenager, William was forced to drop out of school. But with the help of a library book, some spare parts and a big dream, he managed to build something extraordinary, and became an inspiration around the world.

www.littlepeoplebigdreams.com



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Readers®**

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