

## English 9H Summer Reading Expectations for the 2011/2012 School Year

Students entering English 9 Honors are required to read **two** literary works over the summer. The first literary work, William Kamkwamba's, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, is a required read. The second work can be a book of your choice. As you read Kamkwamba's story, the following questions should be used to guide your reading. These represent the big ideas and themes that will serve as starting points for our discussions at the beginning of the year. The better you are about reading closely and taking notes as you read, the easier things will be for you in September's classes. You can use a separate notebook or take notes in the margin of the book and underline passages that address the following questions:

- What is life like for the people of Malawi, Africa? What were the obstacles facing the people of this village?
- What role did magic play in William's life? What was commonly believed about magic by the people in Malawi? How did William's father challenge his views about magic? What did his father teach him about faith as opposed to magic?
- As a young inventor, what obstacles did Kamkwamba face and later overcome?
- What were the keys to Kamkwamba's success?

After reading The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, research another present day inventor and compare and contrast their struggles and methods of success to William's. Students are not required to submit written proof of their research; however, in preparation for the class discussion of the novel and subsequent assignments, it would be helpful for students to have this information in mind prior to class.