About the Common Reading Program

- Mission: to provide a common academic experience and set an intellectual standard for all new students (first-year and transfer) with a book selection for all incoming students to read prior to arriving at Purdue
- A University-wide committee of faculty, staff and students selected the book from suggestions submitted by the Purdue community on the Common Reading Program website
- Common Reading Program co-chairs are Dr. Jared Tippets, Director, Student Access, Transition, and Success Programs, and Dr. Sharon Weiner, professor and W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy
- The book will be integrated during the 2012-13 academic year with campus curricular and co-curricular activities
- Connects students to their faculty/instructors, as well as their peers
- Fosters involvement in campus activities with related programs and events
- Enhances student success by emphasizing reading as an intellectual skill central to student achievement and by setting higher, academic expectations and modelling academic behavior

About the Book

The fourth book in Purdue's Common Reading Program is The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer.

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him. Excerpted from http://www.harpercollins.com.

Books will be distributed free of charge to all first year and transfer students during the Summer Transition, Advising and Registration (STAR) program in June-July 2012. International students and students unable to attend STAR for extenuating reasons will receive an electronic copy of the book during the same period.

For more information, resources, and links, visit www.purdue.edu/commonreading.