Environmental Science Seminar
87.101

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

**Assignment**

I am not asking for a synopsis for this book. I’m asking you to think. This young man had little and yet he did not appear to lack for friends, creativity or happiness. He was confronted with tragedy, poverty and great concern for his family’s wellbeing. He took the few things around him, found some inspiration and changed his future, the future of his family and the future of his entire village.

I chose this book to read because it is so very different from other so-called environmental issues books. This kid never gets tired. He never gets jaded. He keeps his focus through all his many mistakes and challenges. He is an optimist.

Today, many people suffer from environmental fatigue. This means they are so overwhelmed with the enormity of all the environmental problems we face that they become numb, depressed and completely overwhelmed. How does this book help? What is it about this situation that makes the difference? Do you think the life lessons in this book could be applied to other environmental issues? What could we do to help people overcome their fatigue? What did you appreciate the most about the story and how does this fit into your decisions about your future? Did you find anything intriguing about the book? Was there anything in particular you did not like about the book?

Your answers to the above queries should be in a minimum 2-page paper; 12 point font and double spaced. This assignment is due on October 29th. I would prefer the paper be sent via email. lori_weeden@uml.edu