

A Curriculum Guide to

Michael Vey 2: Rise of the Elgen

By Richard Paul Evans

About the Book

Michael was born with special electrical powers—and he’s not the only one. His friend Taylor has them too, and so do other kids around the world. With Michael’s friend Ostin, a techno-genius, they form the Electroclan, an alliance meant to protect them from a powerful group, the growing Order of Elgen, which is out to destroy them. The leader of the Elgen, Dr. Hatch, has kidnapped Michael’s mother, and time is running out. After narrowly escaping an Elgen trap, Ostin’s discovery of bizarre “rat fires” in South America leads the gang to the jungles of Peru, where the Electroclan meets new, powerful foes and faces their greatest challenge yet as Michael learns the extent of the Elgen’s rise in power—and the truth of their plan to “restructure” the world.

Vocabulary

The following addresses the Common Core State Standards: (L.6–8.4)

Some terms cited in the story will likely be unfamiliar to most readers. Ask readers to use reference books or electronic research sources to find out as much information as they can about the following: anonymity, conglomerate, dissension, ellipse, excruciating, impressionable, indignant, indispensable, latitude, materialistic, monetize, protocol, retribution, seditious, surveillance.

Prereading Activities

Michael Vey has Tourette’s syndrome. Have students use electronic and print resources to research this condition.

Discussion Questions

The following questions in this section particularly address the Common Core State Standards: (RL.7–12.1, 2)

1. What can you infer the story will be about from the prologue?
2. In what ways does Michael’s Tourette’s syndrome affect him?
3. What does Michael mean when he says he is “more electric than an electric eel”?
4. What is the Elgen Corporation, and what does it want with Michael and his friends?

5. What is the Magnetic Electron Induction (MEI)?
6. What are Michael's friends' unique electric powers?
7. Which power would you want to have, and in what ways would you put it to use?
8. Michael says of Jack that he is one of the "people in this world you don't really picture as having a sister." Who is someone you know like that, and why is it so hard to imagine him or her having a sister?
9. What does the man on the phone reveal to Michael?
10. What do the confidential memos on the Starxource Plants and the Elgen video reveal about the intentions of Hatch and Elgen?
11. What discovery does Ostin make about ER20/21?
12. Why has Elgen created a new breed of rat?
13. What stops Zeus from taking revenge on the guard?
14. What are subdermal RFIDs, and why can't they work on electric kids?
15. Why do the others wrap Jack and Wade in aluminum foil?
16. What does Michael do to destroy the RFIDs in Jack and Wade?
17. Why does Homeland Security show up at Mitchell's house?
18. Why is Michael's mother in Peru?
19. Where is the Elgen corporate headquarters?
20. Why was Hatch removed from the board of Elgen?
21. What crimes does Hatch say the Elgen board is complicit in?
22. What does Hatch report about the Neo-Species Genesis program? Why is Nine unimpressed with the program?
23. What irony can you identify in the author's titling Chapter 23 "The Family Meeting"?
24. What plans does Hatch have for Torstyn and Quentin?
25. What is Hatch's motive in revealing the C10 message to the teens? What does he reveal to them about his intentions?

26. Why are the electric rats not cannibalistic? What efficient method has been devised for feeding them?
27. What methods are used for the reeducation of the captured youth?
28. What is Hatch's "new order"?
29. How are Michael and his friends able to escape the rats?
30. What does Taylor reveal to Michael?
31. What is the one thing Hatch tells Michael can save him?
32. What does Hatch need from Michael?
33. What is the "chance at salvation" Hatch offers to Michael? What is Michael's response?
34. How is Michael saved from the rats?
35. The story ends with "Mr. Important Guy" telling Michael Vey, "You are not going home." What do you think will be next for Michael Vey and the Electroclan?

Postreading Activities

The following activities in this section particularly address the Common Core State Standards: (W.6–12. 1, 3, 4, 5) (W.9.6) (RL.8.2, 5, 7)

1. Write a review of the novel critiquing the following literary elements: plot, setting, character(s), point of view, conflict(s), and theme(s). Cite specific examples from the story to support your critiques.
2. Have students locate in an atlas or on a wall map of the world the countries and islands identified in the memo from Dr. Hatch to Chairman Schema on Staxource development (p. 44-46). Using electronic and print resources, have students work in pairs to compile ten facts on each of these locations and share their findings with the rest of the class.
3. Michael Vey's father described Hatch as an "unstable, diabolical, delusional man with megalomaniac tendencies." Using specific examples of what Hatch says and does in the story, explain how these characterizations are correct.
4. Research the topic of totalitarianism and explain how the characteristics of that ideology are reflected in Hatch's plans for controlling Elgen and global domination.
5. Identify three conflicts in the story and explain how they are resolved.

6. Create a chronology of events from the story.
7. Illustrate what you think is the climax of this story.
8. Retell a favorite episode from the novel in your own words.
9. Write an alternate ending to the novel or a chapter that continues the story and ties up loose ends.
10. Write a couple of paragraphs in which you predict what will happen in the next novel, *Michael Vey 3: Battle of the Ampere*.

To learn more about the Michael Vey series, visit <http://www.michaelvey.com>.

This guide was written by Edward T. Sullivan, a librarian and writer.

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