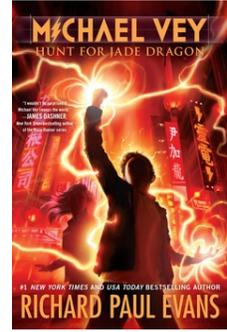


A Curriculum Guide for

## **Michael Vey 4: *Hunt for Jade Dragon***

By Richard Paul Evans



### **About the Book**

Michael, Taylor, Ostin, and the rest of the Electroclan head to China in search of a girl who may have discovered why Michael and his friends became electric. Her name is Lin Julung, or Jade Dragon, and she's a child prodigy with an IQ higher than Einstein's—and Ostin's. But Hatch gets to her first, and the Elgen are holding her prisoner in their Taiwan Starxource plant. Now the Voice wants Michael and the Electroclan to go to Taiwan and free her before Hatch can realize his dreams of an army of electric children. The hunt for Jade Dragon is on, and it's a race against time!

### **Vocabulary**

The below activity aligns with the following English Language Arts 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 vocabulary words:

acupuncture, anonymity, bureaucracy, countenance, delusion, demeanor, disheveled, dossier, mercenary, Orwellian, prototype, psychotic, sardonically, savant, subterfuge, trajectory, traumatized.

### **Prereading Activities**

These activities align with the following English Language Arts Common Core State Standards: (RI.5–6.7)

1. Review with readers key events in the previous Michael Vey novels.
2. The character Jade Dragon is described as an “autistic savant.” Two real-life savants, Kim Peek and Leslie Lemke, are also mentioned. Working in pairs, have students use online and print resources to research what an autistic savant is, as well as the two individuals mentioned. Have them share their findings with the class.

### **Discussion Questions**

These discussion questions align with the following English Language Arts Common Core State Standards: (RL.7–12.1, 2)

1. Why have Hatch and the remaining Elgen taken up residence aboard the troop ship *Faraday*?
2. What information does Hatch want from Jade Dragon? Why does Captain Welch think she might “not understand” torture?

3. Why does Michael say that his Tourette's syndrome "isn't really that interesting"?
4. What are "Faraday cages"?
5. What is Joel referring to when he tells the Electroclan that the whole world is in their debt?
6. Why does Michael think Tanner is the one most likely to understand how he feels?
7. What does Ostin speculate Hatch might be right about? What does Michael say is his real concern about Hatch?
8. What does Simon reveal to Michael about his father?
9. What does Gervaso reveal about the Elgen Corporation in his briefing to the Electroclan?
10. What does the scientific paper written by Lin YuLong theorize?
11. What is the surprising discovery made about the Chinese "scientist," Lin YuLong?
12. What is the Lung Li?
13. How does Hatch compare Elgen's efforts to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?
14. What is the "Cauchin Virus"?
15. What question does Schema struggle with as he plans his revenge on Hatch?
16. How does Michael's mother describe the Hatch she knew?
17. Why does Michael describe the night he kisses Taylor as "the happiest and saddest night of my entire life"?
18. What does Ben tell the Electroclan to pretend they are if discovered?
19. How did Ben get involved with the resistance?
20. How do the group's suspicions about Nichelle prove correct?
21. How do the math problems Taylor previously couldn't understand suddenly make sense?
22. What is Rabisk?
23. What effect does acupuncture have on Michael? Who rescues him from the torture?
24. What reason does Michael's father give him for faking his death?

25. What claim does Michael's father make about the Elgen that he finds hard to believe?
26. Why does Nichelle help Michael escape?
27. How does the Electroclan escape from the Elgen?
28. How did Tara deceive Michael? What does Michael regret telling Hatch?
29. What is the significance of the equation Taylor got from Jade Dragon?
30. What do you think will happen now that the Electroclan knows about the attack on the ranch?

### **Postreading Activities**

These activities align with the following English Language Arts Common Core State Standards: (W.3–5.1) (W.6–8.3) (W.6–12.4) (L.6–8.4) (WHST.6–8.10) (RL.7–8.2)

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 following countries and other geographic areas identified in the novel: Chad, China, Greece, Iraq, Kaohsiung City, Korea, Pakistan, Portugal, Peru, India, Philippines, Switzerland, Taitung, Taiwan, Tuvalu. 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. There are books, names, events, and places cited in the story that 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: Alcatraz, Alexander the Great, *The Art of War*, Michael Faraday, Han dynasty, Hitler, Joan of Arc, Genghis Khan, *Lord of the Flies*, Operation Desert Storm, Sun Tzu, Tchaikovsky.
4. When talking with his mother about Hatch, Michael describes him as a “sociopath.” A sociopath is an antisocial personality disorder defined by specific behaviors and characteristics. Working in pairs or small groups, have students use online and print resources to research what behaviors and characteristics are cited to diagnose someone as a sociopath and, using that criteria, decide whether or not Hatch fits that description based upon his actions in *Hunt for Jade Dragon* and previous Michael Vey novels. Have students share their findings and conclusions after completing the research.
5. Identify three conflicts in the story and explain how they are resolved.
6. Illustrate what you think is the climax of this story.
7. Create a chronology of events from the story.

8. Retell a favorite episode from the novel in your own words.
9. Write an additional chapter to this story in which you tie up loose ends any way you want.
10. 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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