

A Curriculum Guide for

Michael Vey #6: Fall of Hades

by Richard Paul Evans

About the Book

Michael and the Electroclan are about to embark on their deadliest mission yet. Some of them may not make it back. The head of the resistance, known only as the voice, believes that the best way to wipe out the Elgen is to steal their money. That means capturing the *Joule*, the Elgen boat that serves as a floating treasury. To do this, Michael and his friends need a lot of help. They've learned about a highly placed member of the Elite Elgen Guard named Welch, who wants to defect. They also know that Hatch has condemned three of his electric youth to death. If the Electroclan can get to Welch before the Elgen do and rescue Quentin, Torstyn, and Tara, they just might be able to steal the *Joule*. The stakes have never been higher, and Michael and his friends are about to be tested in ways they never imagined.

Prereading Activity

In an atlas or on a wall map of the world, have students locate the following countries and other geographic areas identified in the novel: Auckland, New Zealand; Fiji; Marshall Islands; Niutao; Sydney, Australia; Taiwan; Timor-Leste; Tokyo, Japan; 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.

Discussion Questions

The discussion questions below align with the following Common Core State Standards: (RL1, 2).

1. Michael recalls words on a plaque that belonged to his father, and a story he heard as a child that really bothered him. How do the words and the story relate to what he and the Electroclan are doing to defeat the Elgen?
2. What does Cassy want from Schema, and what does Schema say he can get for the Electroclan?
3. How can finding David Welch help the Electroclan?
4. How did Welch become involved with the Elgen and rise to chief EGG?

5. What was Coonradt's breakthrough that earned the Elgen Corporation hundreds of millions of dollars?
6. Who was the first electrical child discovered, and what did Hatch learn when he had her kidnapped?
7. What are some examples of the "draconian measures" Hatch takes to consolidate his power when he takes over the Elgen?
8. How does Welch escape? What are his plans? What does Hatch do in response to Welch's escape?
9. Hatch says to Torstyn: "Hope can be such a cruel thing. Camus was right. From Pandora's box, where all the ills of humanity swarmed, the Greeks drew out hope after all the others, as the most dreadful of all..." Discuss who and what Hatch is referencing, and its significance.
10. Why does Hatch share the story about Ezra Pound with Quentin?
11. How is Welch able to elude capture in Taiwan?
12. What happens in the attack on the Christmas Ranch?
13. What are Hatch's plans for the captured Glows?
14. What is the mission Chairman Simon assigns to the Electroclan?
15. What does Mr. Ridley believe he owes to Michael?
16. What does McKenna do that Ostin says is an example of electroreception?
17. What does Michael do in the encounter with the mugger in Las Vegas?
18. What is Taylor's premonition about the mission?
19. What is the new development the Elgen makes with RESAT?
20. When the Electroclan arrives in Fiji, what does Ostin mean when he says "burn the boats"?
21. What does Taylor dream?
22. How is McKenna's power different from Bryan's?
23. What does Captain J.D. say that makes Michael realize he's made a terrible mistake?

24. What is the Electroclan's strategy for infiltrating the prison?
25. How does Gervaso meet his end?
26. What happens when the lightning hits Michael?
27. What do you think has happened to Michael? What will be next for Michael Vey and the Electroclan?

Extension Activities

The activities below align with the following Common Core State Standards: (W 1.3, 3.6, 4, 4.6-12, 5, 7, 8) (RL 2, 2.7, 3, 5, 8) (L 4.6, 7, 8)

1. Vocabulary: 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: apex, archipelago, conjecture, deterrence, draconian, enigmatic, impenetrable, mandate, pneumatic, protocol, providence, sardonic, subordinate, and superfluous.
2. 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.
3. There are names, events, and organizations 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: Dante, David Copperfield, Demeter, T.S. Eliot, Hades, Hephaestus, Horace Mann, Benito Mussolini, and Ezra Pound.
4. Have students create a map charting the Electroclan's journey from Australia to Hades.
5. Identify three conflicts in the story and explain how they are resolved.
6. Create a chronology of events from the story. Illustrate what you think is the climax of this story.
7. Retell a favorite episode from the novel in your own words.
8. Write an alternate ending to the novel or a chapter that continues the story and ties up loose ends. Write a few paragraphs in which you predict what will happen in the next Michael Vey novel.

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

About the Author

Richard Paul Evans is the #1 bestselling author of *The Christmas Box*. Each of his more than twenty novels has appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and there are more than seventeen million copies of his books in print. His books have been translated into more than twenty-four languages and several have been international bestsellers. He is the winner of the American Mothers Book Award, two first place Storytelling World Awards for his children's books, and the *Romantic Times* Best Women's Novel of the Year Award. Evans received the *Washington Times* Humanitarian of the Century Award and the Volunteers of America National Empathy Award for his work helping abused children. Evans lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, with his wife, Keri, and their five children.

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