

A Curriculum Guide to

Michael Vey 7: The Final Spark

By Richard Paul Evans

About the Book

Michael Vey is missing and it's up to the Electroclan to find him in this electrifying seventh and final installment of the *New York Times* bestselling series! The battle on the island of Hades ended with a devastating explosion that left the island a smoking ruin and much of Hatch's army dead. However, Hatch survived, and while his plans have certainly suffered a setback, he's more determined than ever to bring the world's governments under his control. But first he wants to wipe out the Resistance and capture the remaining members of the Electroclan. As Hatch's forces storm into action, it seems nothing can stand in their way. The Electroclan is divided. The Voice is captured, and Michael's mother is being used as bait to lure the leader of the Resistance out of hiding. Can anything—or anyone—stop the Elgen? Or is this the end?

Discussion Questions

The discussion questions below particularly address the following English Language Arts Common Core State Standards: (RL.1, 2).

1. In what ways does *The Final Spark* offer readers a compelling story about overcoming adversity through uniting and working with others? Cite textual evidence to support your position.
2. Though each member of the Electroclan has a number of talents and gifts, who is your favorite and why?
3. Of the new characters introduced in *The Final Spark*, which did you like most? Least?
4. Do you believe Hatch was a ruthless villain? In your opinion, does Hatch's demise seem appropriate?
5. What are some specific things you learned about the countries and cultures introduced throughout the novel and course of the series?
6. Although *The Final Spark* doesn't implicitly address it, what do you believe happens to the remaining Glows after the Elgen are defeated? How do you think they will deal with their powers?
7. Did Zara's appearance surprise you? What did you find most interesting about her particular powers?
8. In your opinion, why is the Tuvalu resistance an important one? What stands to be gained from their success?

9. What was your reaction to learning the identity of the Voice? In what ways does this impact the story?
10. In *The Final Spark*, Michael plays a smaller role in the novel's action. How does that impact the secondary characters in the story?
11. Though the novel doesn't reveal it, what do you believe happened to Grace on Christmas Ranch after the raid?
12. Discuss Michael's return with his mother and father. Were you surprised by this turn of events? If so, in what way? Do you think Michael will struggle with Carl Vey's years of absence?
13. What are the biggest challenges Carl Vey will face as he assumes his position as CEO and returns to the Vey household?
14. How do Michael's new abilities benefit him and others? What are the biggest challenges to having such godlike powers?
15. At the end of the book, Michael and his friends return to their former school. In what ways do you believe their experiences will be different than before? What do their classmates stand to learn from them?

Extension Activities

The activities below particularly address the following English Language Arts 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. In *The Final Spark* and throughout the Michael Vey series, Evans focuses on timeless themes such as the role of family, responsibility, love, friendship, and loyalty. Compose a letter to Richard Paul Evans discussing which of these themes you most connect with and why you feel it's so important.
2. In small groups, select a favorite scene from *The Final Spark* and create either a digitally or manually illustrated graphic novel for that scene. Using a digital comic strip creator (<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix/> or <http://infinitecomic.com/>, for example), begin by using the strips to create storyboards for your scene. Select original art, images, and graphics. Alternatively, assume the roles of two of the characters using their personalities and voice, and interact with one another by creating an extension of a scene from the novel.
3. Using the descriptions provided in *The Final Spark*, illustrate the four places you believe to be most important to the story. In addition to the illustrations, include a short explanation of the significance of each, and why you believe it is important.
4. Choose a character in *The Final Spark* and describe one of the problems they face; then, write advice to him or her. You may choose to be serious or humorous. Use the letter format common

to newspaper advice columns, where the person with the problem writes for advice and the advisor writes back. Often the person seeking advice disguises his or her name with a descriptive name associated with the problem.

5. Select five or more gifts that would be perfect to give to one of the characters in *The Final Spark*; while these gifts can be tangible or intangible, they should be things that he or she would really want or need. Be sure to include an explanation for each gift and why it is appropriate.

This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Brock holds a Ph.D. in Library Science, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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