



A Curriculum Guide for
Michael Vey 8: The Parasite
By Richard Paul Evans

About the Book

Michael Vey is back with an electrifying eighth installment of the award-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling series. Join Michael and the Electroclan as a new threat arises even more terrible and calculating than the Elgen.

Michael and his friends learn that returning to a normal life is not only more difficult than they imagined, but that “normal” doesn’t last. Like the mythical Hydra, cutting off the head of the global Elgen only created more enemies.

Michael Vey fans worldwide will celebrate the return of this exciting series with the world’s greatest team of electric superheroes.

Discussion Questions

1. In the opening of *The Parasite*, Michael Vey tells readers, “I don’t know why I thought everything would be easy after defeating the Elgen—as if I thought the world was peaceful except for them. It’s not. It never has been. There will always be monsters and bullies. Big countries bully little countries. Countries bully citizens. Citizens bully each other. Maybe if people were more kind, countries would be too.” (Chapter one) Consider his assessment about the world and its people. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
2. Michael shares that he believes himself to have some PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) from his past experiences. Do you think he is correct in his self-assessment? Using evidence from the book, justify your answer.
3. Throughout the series, each member of the Electroclan has displayed a number of talents and gifts. Who has been your favorite and why?
4. Of the new characters introduced in *The Parasite*, which did you like most? Explain why you liked them using in-book context, and in contrast, note any characters you liked least and why.
5. Did the demise of Hatch seem appropriate? From what you learned in your reading of *The Parasite*, do you think forces and leadership that are even more dangerous could be a threat moving forward?
6. What are some of the specific things you learned about how the Electroclan members have been living their lives during the past three years? Is there anyone whose life you are most envious of? For what reason?
7. While discussing Ostin and future plans, Michael’s dad tells Michael, “I really wish he would just come work for us. He would be such an asset to our team.” (Chapter thirteen) Do you agree with Mr. Vey? Based on what you’ve learned about Ostin in the past, what makes his gifts such important ones?
8. Discuss Michael’s most recent life with both his mother and father. How are things different now that they have money? Are there ways in which you think Michael will continue to struggle with the years his father was absent?
9. Were you surprised to learn that Grace is still alive? How might this story choice play out in the future? Why does knowing she’s still on their side make Michael feel encouraged?

10. What do you believe Carl Vey's biggest challenges have been in returning to his family and his work?
11. What was your reaction to reading about the Electroclan's reunion? Do you have a favorite among those gathered? Who is it and why?
12. Considering Nichelle's previous behavior, did the changes in her personality surprise you? If so, in what way?
13. How does Michael's "interaction" with Tara potentially complicate things in his personal life and with Taylor?
14. As Taylor shares her fear about the speed of their enemies, McKenna tells Taylor, "No one is invincible. . . . Even Superman has his Kryptonite." (Chapter thirty-six) Consider McKenna's statement. Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
15. Given his past relationship with Michael, did Jack joining the Chasqui surprise you? Why do you suspect he was motivated to do so?
16. Cristiano tells the Electroclan that the Chasqui are "looking for the one they call *la profetisa* [the prophetess]." (Chapter fifty-two). Why might they be seeking the one that can see the future? If you had the potential to see the future, would you want to? Why or why not?
17. If the story were to be told by another character, who would you choose to narrate it and why?
18. What is the greatest risk for the Electroclan as they discover that there are mysterious new foes rising from the ashes of the Elgen that will likely be significant threats to the world? Describe how these new enemies are more or less dangerous than the Elgen.
19. The conclusion of *The Parasite* leaves readers questioning what's to come. Based on your reading and what you know about these characters, what do you predict will happen next?

Extension Activities

- Students regularly retell their “stories” using a variety of social media tools. Working in groups, have students select an event from *The Parasite* and, using a created social media tool (Snapchat, Twitter, or Facebook), retell the selected scene using a social media platform of choice. Alternatively, have students set up a “Fauxbook” or “Finsta” profile for a specific character from one of the stories and create posts as that selected character.
- In the closing of *The Parasite*, readers are left with questions about what may be to come for their most beloved or despised characters. Using *The Parasite*’s closing as a springboard, have students choose a specific character and create an original creative story extension that could serve as a bonus chapter or a “where are they now” feature.
- In *The Parasite* and throughout the Michael Vey series, author Richard Paul Evans focuses on timeless themes such as the role of family, responsibility, love, friendship, and loyalty. Compose a letter to the author discussing which of these themes you most connect with and why you feel it’s so important.
- Throughout *The Parasite*, several characters exhibit acts of bravery. Consider the individual actions of these characters. Who do you believe to be the most courageous? Write a letter to that character explaining why you believe his/her actions are so brave?
- In small groups, select a favorite scene from the novel 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 with each one's personality and voice and interact with each other by creating an extension of a scene from the novel. With parental permission, record these scene extensions, or perform them for the class.
- Describe one of the problems faced by a character in *The Parasite* and write advice to that character. 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.

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

This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, an associate professor in the Library Science Department in the College of Education 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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