

Electrical Wizard

HOW NIKOLA TESLA LIT UP THE WORLD

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Electricity, Energy, Inventors, Biography

Book Brief: From a very young age, Nikola Tesla was enchanted by electricity. This is the story of his journey, including the challenges he faced along the way and his amazing inventions that have had a lasting impact on our world.

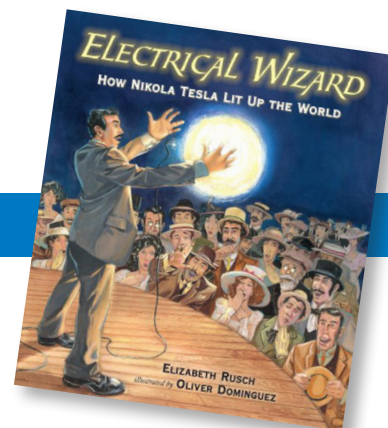
Author:

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Illustrator:

Oliver Dominguez

Content Connections: Science



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Does the cover illustration give you any clues about the time period in which this book is set? Give examples. What is the man on stage showing the audience? What do you think the title means?

The Pictures: Looking at the picture on page one, discuss how electricity was first discovered. Ask for a student volunteer to share the story with the class.

Prior Knowledge: Electricity is a natural force, not something that was invented by people. However, it did have to be discovered in order to be understood and harnessed for us to use. How can discovery lead to invention? Can you think of any examples of things that have been invented after scientific discoveries or breakthroughs?

Vocabulary: prophecy, direct current, alternating current, rival

Purpose for Reading: Nikola Tesla used visualization to organize his thoughts and “see” his ideas in his mind. As we read, practice visualizing by “seeing” more detailed pictures in your mind of events taking place in the story.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How would you describe Nikola as a young boy?
- ◆ How did his job as a lineman help build his skills for future inventions?
- ◆ How would you describe Nikola’s ability to visualize?

- ◆ Why did people not believe him?
- ◆ Why do you think Thomas Edison did not want to listen to Nikola’s idea about alternating current?
- ◆ Have you noticed an underlying theme for Nikola getting his designs to become a reality?
- ◆ How did electricity change people’s lifestyles?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did Tesla use visualization to become a successful inventor? How did you use visualization to help deepen your understanding of this story? Give examples.

Extending Our Thinking: Pretend you are Thomas Edison. What do you think his side of the story might sound like? Electricity hasn’t always been around—in fact, it’s pretty recent! Do you think we’re better off with it or without it? With a partner, discuss what life would have been like without electricity. Then, brainstorm the benefits and possible negative effects of discovering electricity.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental