



2014 Sequoyah Book Awards Lessons + Activities

Day Three:

Sequoyah Book Award Week focuses on the Intermediate Masterlist of books for grades 6-8.



Visit bit.ly/17NgEVE on the web for background on this Oklahoma honor—the third oldest youth-choice literary award in the nation. You'll also find the masterlists, activities and promotional help to get your students reading and involved in selecting the next winning authors

Elements of Fiction

Middle school is an ideal time to delve deeper into the elements of fiction. After students finish a Sequoyah book, have them:

- **Identify the main characters, including protagonist and antagonist**
- **Describe the setting**
- **Describe the central conflict (Is it internal or external?)**
- **Describe the resolution to the conflict**
- **Define the central theme of the work**

Having students share their answers with each other could lead to some lively discussions!



Download the Intermediate Masterlist: bit.ly/1f59oqP

Paper Tweets and Word Clouds

Have students describe a Sequoyah book in 140 characters or less, just like they would on Twitter. Writing such a short description will help students focus on the core plot. Here's an example of a 140-character tweet on *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins:

"Government makes kids from 12 districts fight to the death as punishment for past district rebellions, and to prevent future uprisings"

Post the paper tweets in the classroom or library to share with all Sequoyah readers.

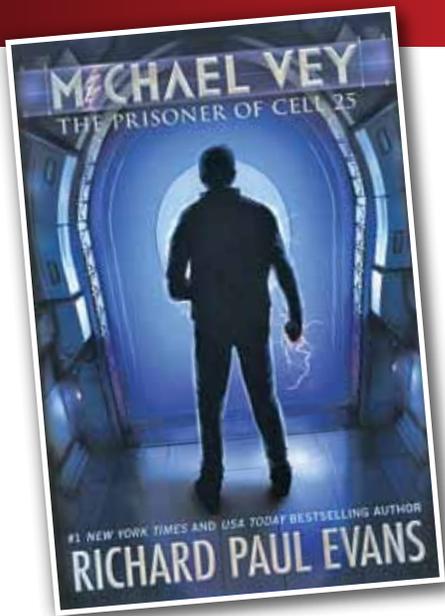
If several students "tweet" about the same book, go to www.wordle.net and make a Word Cloud to post in class or online.

Reader's Theater

This activity involves students reading a script adapted from a book. It can help young people improve their speaking, writing and listening skills. Scholastic has a great webpage on Reader's Theater, listing tips on implementing a program, writing scripts, and performing: www.scholastic.com/librarians/programs/whatisrt.htm



Visit bit.ly/153640H to find and download completed reader's theater scripts based on six of the 2014 Intermediate Masterlist books.



Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25

by Richard Paul Evans

2013 OLA Sequoyah Intermediate Masterlist
bit.ly/1f59oqP

Annotation

When Michael's secret ability to transmit electricity through his body is revealed and his mother is subsequently kidnapped by the evil Dr. Hatch, Michael and his friends go on a quest to save her and to discover the source of his strange, electrifying ability.

Booktalk

Fourteen-year-old Michael Vey has a dangerous power, and the bullies at his school just pushed him into revealing it. When Michael tries to defend himself by using his ability to control electrical currents, he draws the attention of the evil Dr. Hatch and a team of scientists who have been hunting Michael for years. In an attempt to control Michael, the bad guys kidnap Michael's mother, whisking her off to their secret compound in California. Taking along his friends Ostin and Taylor, Michael sets off on a quest to save his mom, free all the kids in the compound, and find out once and for all why he has these strange, electrifying abilities.

Social Studies

Disabilities & Bullying

Discuss Tourette's and what it means with the students. Ask the students why Jack and Wade are bullies. In small groups, have students create infomercial videos about bullying or disabilities. The infomercial should focus on how students can take non-violent action against bullying and/or how to be respectful of the needs of others. The video should last no longer than two

minutes. The video can be in a creative format – a newscast, music video, documentary, play, etc. The infomercial should address the following type of issues:

Bullying

- What is bullying?
- Why do people feel the need to bully others?
- How does it feel to be bullied?
- What are the possible consequences?
- If someone is being bullied, what is the best course of action to take?

Disabilities Awareness

- Ask before you help – do not assume a person with a disability desires help. Offer only if a person appears to need it.
- Be sensitive about physical contact.
- Think before you speak.
- Don't make assumptions.
- For Tourette's syndrome, remain calm and simply wait for the vocalizations to finish then continue the conversation.

Science

Electricity Discussion and Character Creation

Does the human body conduct electricity? Yes. A person is capable of conducting electricity. Discuss with students how electricity affects the human body to varying degrees. Discuss why and how.

Terms to discuss: *Electrolytes, conductor, electric charge, electrostatics, and voltage*

Name and define two basic kinds of electrical flow.

Compare and define conductors and insulators.

Now ask the class how the science of a super-powered human would hold up to the type of electrical charge in the book. Then students should create an opposing super-powered character that would be immune to the Electric Children using the concepts of conductors and insulators.

Character creations should include:

- **a minimum half-page character background**
- **statement of superpower including an explanation of why that character is immune to or unaffected by electricity**
- **physical description**
- **character's moral or ethical alignment**

Body Lightning Activity

Create lightning using the students' own bodies. Supplies:

- **Aluminum pie plate**
- **Styrofoam from electronics packaging**
- **Thumbtack**
- **Glue**
- **Ballpoint pen**
- **Wool sock**

Pierce the center of the aluminum pie plate with a thumbtack with bottom end up. Spike the bottom of the pen on the thumbtack and then use glue to hold the pen in place. Rubbing a wool sock over the Styrofoam will create a small electric charge. Do not touch the pie plate. Using the pen as a handle, carefully lift the aluminum pie plate onto the top of the Styrofoam. Turn off the lights. In darkness, have a student slowly bring a finger closer to the aluminum pie plate. This will create a mini "bolt of lightning". The student will feel a tiny spark.

Miscellany

Author Website:

<http://www.richardpaulevans.com/>

The author's website has a 57 page guide full of lesson plans and activities.

Reviews:

School Library Journal 11/2011

Booklist 09/2011

Library Media Connection (starred) Jan/Feb 2012

Voice of Youth Advocates 10/2011

Awards and Honors:

2011 VOYA Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror

2012 International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council Young Adult's Choices

Chosen for state award lists in Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Missouri, and Wyoming.

Related Books:

Bruiser by Neal Shusterman

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Maximum Ride by James Patterson

Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz

Other Books by Richard Paul Evans

(full list can be found on author website)

Michael Vey: Rise of the Elgen

The Christmas Box

Like - Try - Why:

Like *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan?

Try *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans!

Why—Michael is on an adventure to save his mother, break his friends out of prison, and discover why he and a group of teenagers have the strange ability to control electricity in different ways.