

Electrical Wizard

HOW NIKOLA TESLA LIT UP THE WORLD

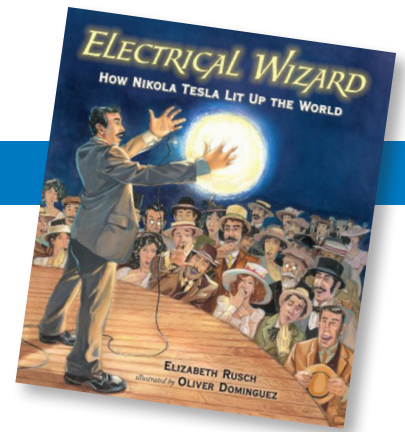
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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.

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Illustrator:
Oliver
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TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Have you ever heard of Nikola Tesla or Tesla in general? Why do you think the title says that he lit up the world? What might that mean? What inventor do you think about when you think of electricity and light?

While reading, make connections: Have you ever had an idea that you could see in your mind? Edison and Tesla were *rivals*—what are some other ways you've heard the word *rivals* used before? Can you think of a time when someone else had an idea that you wished

you had thought of? What did you do? Can you think of another inventor that you've read about who never gave up his or her dream?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What natural occurrence started Nikola thinking about electricity?
- ◆ How would you describe Nikola?
- ◆ Why didn't people like his ideas?
- ◆ What made Edison turn against Nikola and his ideas?
- ◆ What do you think Edison would say as *his* side of the story?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

SEEING STATIC ELECTRICITY

Materials: thick plastic bottle (like sports drinks come in), tissue paper, small bits of Styrofoam

Wash and dry the plastic bottle. When it's completely dry, fill it with small squares of tissue paper and small bits of Styrofoam. Secure the lid on the bottle. Rub the bottle on a sweater and then on the carpet. What happens to the objects inside the bottle? Record what you see. Does the sweater or the carpet conduct more *static electricity*?

FINDING THE FLOW

Browse the site <http://storyofelectricity.org>. How does electricity flow into your home? Take a look outside to see if you can find the items discussed in the site's flow chart. Do you see transformers and power lines? Think about the chart you viewed and try to visualize where those lines lead to from your neighborhood. Watch this video to see how electricity on Earth looks from space: www.space.com/18783-earth-night-lights-unprecedented-detection-from-space-video.html.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ELECTRICITY

- Oscar and the Bird: A Book About Electricity*, Geoff Waring (2011)
Wired, Anastasia Suen (2007)
How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning, Rosalyn Schanzer (2002)



Reading Is
Fundamental