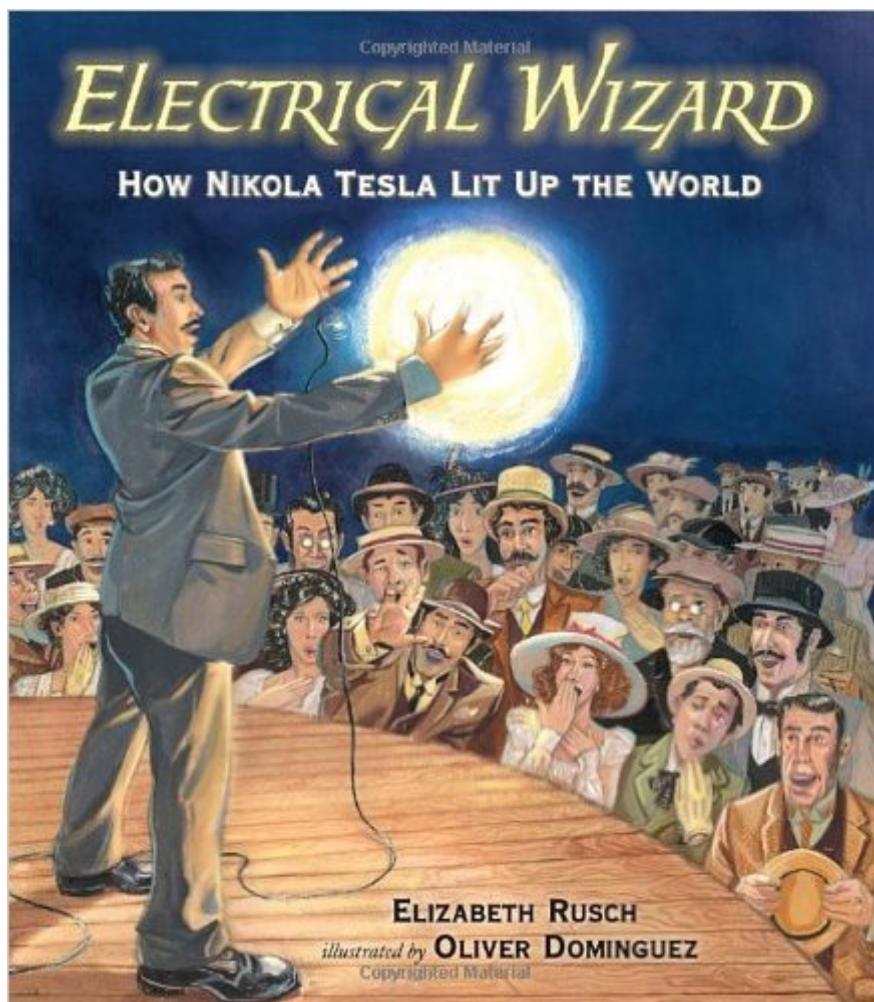


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# Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up The World



## **Synopsis**

Move over, Thomas Edison! Nikola Tesla takes the spotlight in a biography of the man who pioneered modern electrical engineering and changed the course of history. When a Serbian boy named Nikola Tesla was three, he stroked his cat and was enchanted by the electrical sparks. By the time he was a teenager, he had made a vow: Someday I will turn the power of Niagara Falls into electricity. Here is the story of the ambitious young man who brought life-changing ideas to America, despite the obstructive efforts of his hero-turned-rival, Thomas Edison. From using alternating current to light up the Chicago World's Fair to harnessing Niagara to electrify New York City and beyond, Nikola Tesla was a revolutionary ahead of his time. Remote controls, fluorescent lights, X-rays, speedometers, cell phones, even the radio all resulted from Nikola Tesla's inventions. Established biographer Elizabeth Rusch sheds light on this extraordinary figure, while fine artist Oliver Dominguez brings his life and inventions to vivid color. Back matter includes additional information about Tesla, scientific notes and explanations, source notes, a bibliography, and suggestions for further reading.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Nikola Tesla was an inventor and genius. He created lots of things we use today. I love this book! It

is so cool. Other kids will love this book, too. They will be really interested because they'll be able to learn about electricity and Nikola's life. This is a picture book (the pictures are well drawn and I like them) but there are huge words in it and a lot of information about science and history so it's for 8-year-olds and older. My favorite part was when Tesla lit up the Chicago World Fair. It seemed magical to people and looked spectacular. I also loved the part at the Great Hall of Electricity when Tesla held a wire in his hand and he glimmered with sparks of light! More than 250,000 volts went across him and he wasn't hurt! Nikola always wanted to use water power and he finally did it! I really liked that part, too. At the end of the book, there are "scientific notes" and facts about this impressive inventor. Electrical Wizard really tells about how Nikola lit up the world. I give this book 5 stars definitely! Review by Connor C., age 6, Boston Mensa

The book begins by describing Tesla's childhood and different ways in which he experimented and explored electricity from an early age. One of the big things stressed in the book is Tesla's persistence, constantly showing how his hard work and determination paid off. The story covers many of the highlights of Tesla's life - A/C power, his feud with Edison, Niagara Falls, the Chicago World's Fair. The book covers some negatives, I was surprised to see mention of Topsy the elephant. It does end on a high note, though, and doesn't mention the tragic circumstances under which Tesla lived his final years. The illustrations are beautiful and really capture the feeling of the era. It's obvious that Oliver Dominguez did a lot of research into the clothing and style of the era. And I was pleased to see Mark Twain make an appearance. At the end of the book there is more information about Tesla, his rivalry with Edison, and a section of scientific notes. It is a great addition for older kids to learn more about electricity and how some of Tesla's inventions work. There is also a bibliography and further reading list that I found very interesting. Some of the books I already own, but there were a few that I am definitely interested in checking out.

My eight-year-old daughter had no problems reading this book for her report. I had only to explain a few concepts like the differences between alternating and direct current so she better understood Tesla as an inventor and historical figure. Heck, I even learned some things too.

This is a good book, because it shows Thomas Edison for the monster that he was. But these descriptions are definitely not suitable for anyone under 11 or 12. Good in that it shows what a genius Tesla really was and how he was cheated out of many patents and not credited for many of

his inventions. Should be in every middle or high school!

This book is a wonderful way to introduce children to Tesla. My 9 year old daughter found it interesting and really enjoyed the illustrations. Some of the vocabulary was a little challenging for her but all in all, she was able to understand the material presented within the book.

Electrical Wizard introduces younger readers to the fascinating and awe-inspiring Nikola Tesla, a scientist and inventor who is often overshadowed by Thomas Edison in history books. The story and illustrations provide a glimpse into what life was like around the turn of the century, and explains why Tesla's ideas were so revolutionary. The book includes an excellent section on the basic principles of electricity, which helps make Tesla's work accessible to grade-school readers. The bibliography provides a number of great resources for people who want to know more about the great inventor. This book is sure to spark the imaginations of young readers and scientists!

Electrical Wizard is a good, fun illustrated novel to start young people on their path of discovery, to get Edison out of history books and name the true scientific genius who is responsible for what was the 20th century: Nikola Tesla. I gave four stars because the illustrations did not live up to my expectations.

Kid needed a biography to read for 4th grade - this fit the bill perfectly. Very nice illustration. Very good, child-appropriate overview of his life and accomplishments. I liked that they included pages in the back that explained the science in the back.

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