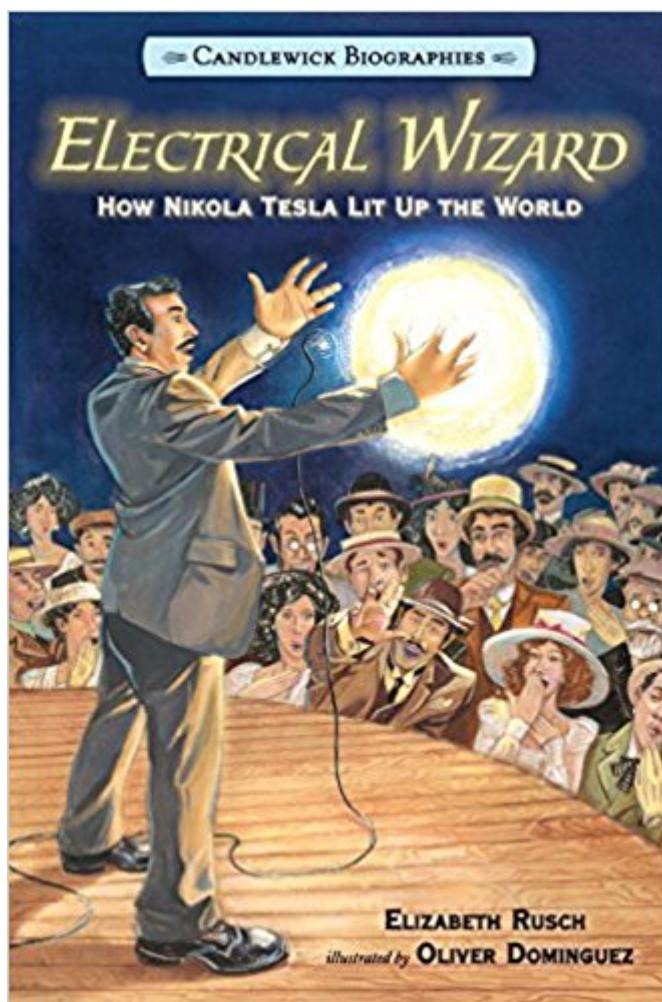


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# Electrical Wizard: Candlewick Biographies: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up The World



## **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**

Series: Candlewick Biographies

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Rusch combines noteworthy vocabulary with engaging writing to produce a comprehensive yet

Elizabeth Rusch is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction for children, including the picture book biography *For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart*. She lives in Portland, Oregon. Oliver Dominguez works as a freelance editorial illustrator and is the illustrator of *Miracle Mud: Lena Blackburne and the Secret Mud that Changed Baseball* by David A. Kelly. He lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

As far as I know this is the only children's picture book about Tesla out there that's worth buying (correct me if I'm wrong). I won't mention the name of the other one I bought but it's about Tesla's childhood cat. The 'illustrator' of that book hadn't done any research, and all her 'illustrations' are actually just photographs of models wearing contemporary clothes (t-shirts) and hairstyles, and photoshopped to look like paintings. (They don't). If you see it please don't waste your money; it's atrocious. Buy this one instead. I actually wrote to the author of that book and asked him what the pictures were like. He replied that the 'illustrator' had a degree from a prestigious college. She should give it back. *Electrical Wizard* is great. The illustrator has done his homework, and the artwork has a nice, slightly caricatured style. My only criticism is that it's too short: the Wardencyffe Tower episode, for example, is more or less a footnote at the back. Still, until the next children's book about Tesla is published this will do nicely. And considering the way Nikola Tesla has been airbrushed from history we should be grateful even this one exists.

Light on dates within the text, as others have noted, HOWEVER, a very clear timeline of important events is included in an appendix after the story. The story is always in the details and this one relies on the details of his life to keep the interest of primary readers. We found it engaging as an introduction to the controversial and incomprehensible genius of Tesla. In conjunction with *The Inventor Tesla*, a graphic novel with amazing illustrations and uncanny knack for building suspense, these two books could give your child a real love of the fascinating LIFE of inventors. As if the inventions weren't good enough, their lives are inspirational, too! Let them explore more with youtube and Netflix and you may have an inventors revolution in your classroom or home:) These inspired a homemade 9v Tesla Coil for a primary school student. FYI: Budding Tesla "Coilers" should research the schematics and add an LED with its OWN r-valued resistor.... It will make sense when you try it:)

Very Interesting; Book relates to Young Readers! MS Rusch provides Nikola's Energy Power Secret; i.e., = "Resonance Tuning w/ Bifilar wound Coils"(Tesla never' ID'd this; to keep others from stealing his patents) tho he said that in 100 yrs (from 1920's)..That Mankind will understand how in Colorado; Lighting up Glass Globes & Motors; 20 miles from his lab w/out wires! He detailed this in his Lecture @ Franklin Institute w/ winding Chart & tuning approach to raise 1 Volt to 110 V ! His Colorado notes cover this in detail .. & why July 3rd 1899, was key to his "Power & VSWR!" - Free Energy ! We consulted as "Tesla Inc" for years,,,

Easy to read, well written and nicely laid out. Perfect for the science-curious middle schooler! We bought it for a book report - my son is obsessed with Tesla.

My Grandson (7) enjoyed it.

Excellent children's book about Tesla. It has very easy to follow explanations about what alternating current is after the story. You realize how energy is all around us.

This is a good quality and well written book, it's a bit wordier than I was looking for but would be great for upper elementary.

Great book for my son's report on Tesla. Covered Tesla's life and accomplishments perfectly for a 8-10 year old.

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