

Read, Reap, Write
Facilitator's Guide

Name of Package	:	Viridian
Objective(s)	:	To get students to facilitate discussions about threats to the environment.
Target Audience	:	Secondary 1 – 2
Recommended Duration	:	1 hour
Materials Required	:	Please refer to the individual activities for materials.
Room Setup	:	Tables and chairs in groups of five to eight
Book Title	:	Viridian
Book Author	:	Susan Gates
Call Number	:	Y GAT

Notes to Facilitator

- Remember to take photos during the activity.
- **For DIY workshops**, a report must be submitted to your Read@School librarian. Please refer to Appendix C for a report template.

Time	Item	Materials Required
5 min	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the objectives of the workshop. 	
10 min	Reading the Extract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give them the following background information: <p>In the book, humans are becoming infected by a certain virus from plant sap, giving them chlorophyll skin and plant-like properties. These people are called Verdans and are green from head to toe. Verdans enjoy being infected, because whatever diseases or ailments they had before disappear after they have been infected. Furthermore, Verdans feel that they are saving the environment as they are able to photosynthesise, and turn carbon dioxide into oxygen.</p>	Extract

	<p>People not only inject themselves with the virus so that they too can become Verdans, but also encourage people around them to do so. As more and more people become Verdans, social ties degenerate: Verdans do not care about family ties, and their main aim is to get enough sunlight and water.</p> <p>Soon, the Verdans begin to outnumber the humans. Things take a turn for the worse when a group of Verdans – the Cultivars – become ambitious. To make themselves more powerful, they start to graft parts of carnivorous plants onto themselves.</p>	
15 min	<p>Discussion Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This section may be conducted with the entire class. Facilitators may also choose to separate students into discussion groups to answer different sets of questions. Students are to write down the key points discussed in their worksheets. - Note that starred (*) questions should be used for students who are able to handle more mature topics. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If all your friends were Verdans, would you join them? Why? 2. * Would you join the Verdans if you were Jay? Why? 3. * Could all the environmental problems on Earth be solved if everyone were to become Verdans? Why? 4. Does turning everyone into Verdans sound like a good way to save the Earth? Why? 5. If there were only Verdans and no Cultivars, could humans and Verdans coexist peacefully? What are some rules that can be set in place to ensure harmony? 	Activity Worksheet
30	Activity 1: Superpowered Green Mutant	- Appendix A (One

<p>min</p>	<p>Objective: Students to create their own Superpowered Verdian and draft a plan on how it can save humans from the evil Cultivars.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide the students into groups of five. 2. Explain that in the book, the evil Cultivars received special abilities from plants. For example, there is a person who has sticky hair on the back of his palm that secretes glue to trap his enemies, and a girl with Venus flytrap leaves grafted onto her shoulders as wings. 3. Students are to spend five to ten minutes reading the fact files for each of the three special plants as given in Appendix A (additional notes) (Facilitator to print out one set of Appendix A for each group). 4. In this activity, students have to fight against the Cultivars and save the Earth, by using the Cultivars' very own plant technology. Students are to create a green mutant that has powers drawn from <u>at least one</u> of these three plants. 5. Write down the description of the green mutant in the activity worksheet. <p>Title: Superpowered Green Mutant Imagine that there is one Verdian who wants to save the remaining humans. To do this, he acquires special abilities from certain plants, and becomes a green mutant. Read the three extracts (Appendix A) about plants, then create your own green mutant that has powers related to the properties of certain plants. Include at least one of the plants from the extracts. After that, draft a plan of how your mutant can save the humans from the evil Cultivars.</p> <p>Name: _____ Superpower: _____ Plants that the powers are derived from: _____ Personality traits: _____</p>	<p>set for each group)</p>
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	<p>Plan to save the humans from the evil Cultivars: _____</p> <p>6. If time permits, get the groups to present their green mutant and plan to the class.</p>	
30 min	<p>Activity 2 Our Avengers - Save the World from the Cultivars – Write an advertisement for your assigned role.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide students into groups of five to eight. 2. Students are to fill in the Avengers sheet with their group mates' names. Every member of the group must be included in the sheet. 3. Each member will be given five minutes to write a short advertisement about their assigned role. For example, for the student with the role of "The Muscle", he or she will write a short advertisement about how he or she will be useful to the team. The advertisement can be something like this: "I have the muscles, and will wrestle with the Cultivars with all my might." 4. Present their individual advertisements to the group. 	- A4 paper, pencils
5 min	<p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarise what the students have learnt during the workshop. - Distribute feedback forms (for workshops run by Read@School librarians). - Promote discoverReads. 	

Appendix A

Extracts for Activity 1 (*Viridian*)

78 DISASTERS, POISONS, AND DEADLY DISEASES

STRYCHNINE TREE

In movies, poisoning is a sudden, horrific death. The victim's eyes bulge and they foam at the mouth, then fall on the floor, writhing and twitching. Finally, after a last gasp for breath, they perish. But is it the same in real life?

CAN IT REALLY HAPPEN?
In real life, few poisons have such a sudden, dramatic effect – but strychnine does. This deadly poison works by making your muscles go berserk. They twitch, tremble, and tense up at the slightest touch, and it's horribly painful. Victims die with an agonized grimace, from the muscles in their face tightening – scary!

MURDER WEAPON
Strychnine comes from the seeds of the strychnine tree. People have used them for thousands of years, as both a poison and a tonic – a

Don't pick the seeds from a strychnine tree under any circumstances!

DEADLY DEGREE

☠☠☠☠

A nasty murder weapon, but some victims survive.

medicine that perks you up when you're tired. In 1818, scientists found a way to extract the pure strychnine poison from the seeds. It was sold for killing rats.




Extracted from: Claybourne, A. (2012). *100 Most Deadly Things on the Planet*. (pp.78). London: A & C Black.
Call No: J 591.6 CLA

76 DISASTERS, POISONS, AND DEADLY DISEASES

DEADLY NIGHTSHADE

The fat, juicy, purple berries of deadly nightshade have tempted many people to try a taste. Don't be one of them! Eating just one handful of berries could be fatal.

WHAT HAPPENS?
People who are poisoned by deadly nightshade get a dry mouth, terrible thirst, and blurred vision. They start to stumble and feel sleepy. They often lose their voice, and their hands make strange clutched, writhing movements. Finally, they get confused and have horrible hallucinations, before falling unconscious. It's a truly horrible way to die!

A MILLION USES
Despite the dangers, humans have been using deadly nightshade for thousands of years, for all kinds of purposes, good and bad:

- To reduce sweating.
- As a sleeping aid.
- To confuse prisoners so that they confess to crimes.
- As a murder weapon.

A lethal dose of deadly nightshade would make everything look blurry, just like this!



They look like blueberries but you wouldn't want these in a muffin!

DEADLY DEGREE
A sinister berry surprise.

EYES WIDE OPEN
Long ago, women used to put drops of deadly nightshade potion in their eyes. It made their pupils dilate (get bigger), which was thought to look attractive. Today, it is used to keep the pupil open during eye operations.

Extracted from: Claybourne, A. (2012). *100 Most Deadly Things on the Planet*. (pp.76). London: A & C Black.
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80 DISASTERS, POISONS, AND DEADLY DISEASES

WOLFSBANE

This plant is so deadly, just touching its leaves or roots can make you feel ill. And if you eat it, its powerful poison paralyses your heart and breathing muscles.

WEREWOLVES BEWARE

Wolfsbane has killed many people who've eaten it by accident – or been poisoned on purpose! It poisons animals, too, explaining the name wolfsbane – or dogbane, mousebane, or even tiger's bane. (If you're wondering what a 'bane' is, it's an old word that means a dangerous or deadly thing.) People also thought that if it killed wolves, it must be good for keeping werewolves away! These mythical monsters were said to fear wolfsbane and hate its smell.

WARRIOR WEAPONS

In ancient times, warriors dipped arrows and spear tips in wolfsbane juice to make them poison-tipped and extra-deadly. Just a small wound from a wolfsbane weapon could be fatal!



DEADLY DEGREE



Famous for its extremely lethal poison.

A sure sign of this poisonous plant is the purple 'hood' growing on top of the flower.

KILLER CURE

Like many poisons, wolfsbane's killer ingredient, aconite, has also been used as a medicine. A tiny dose could slow down a racing heart. It was also rubbed on the skin to numb pain or itching. This was pretty risky! It could kill if you took too much, or if it got into a cut or scratch and entered your bloodstream.

Extracted from: Claybourne, A. (2012). *100 Most Deadly Things on the Planet*. (pp.80). London: A & C Black.

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Appendix B

Activity 3

Influenza A (H1N1-009), previously referred to as “swine flu”, was reported in 2009 as a new strain of influenza virus that spreads from human to human.

The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to those of seasonal influenza and include fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, runny nose, headaches and tiredness.

Unlike seasonal influenza, however, the H1N1 virus tends to strike a higher proportion of young adults and those with underlying medical conditions. Most cases of H1N1 infection in Singapore were mild, although up to 18 deaths due to H1N1 were reported in 2009.

(Source: Singapore Infopedia - http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_1759_2011-01-28.html)

Appendix C

Report on Read, Reap, Write

Fill out the following template and submit the report via email to your Read@School librarian.

Remember to include at least three photographs of the reading activity.

You may also submit the creative products that your students have produced.

Name of package	:	Viridian
Date of activity	:	
School	:	
Class(es)	:	
No. of participants	:	

Description of Activity		
What went well during the activity?	:	
What part of the activity could be improved?	:	

Feedback from the Participants		
<i>*For each piece of feedback, please include the name of the student/teacher/parent and the relevant class.</i>		
Verbal Feedback	:	
Written Feedback	:	