

# THE ELECTROMEET

DAVID MORSE

I am David Morse, a fisherman on my vessel, the *Apple*, and I am slowing down in Casco Bay to see what fish I find. I discover a strange species, a bluish green fish with a big tail and two small fins. Something that looks like a sea urchin grows out of its head. I take it back to my base to observe it.

It is apparently a mammal, and had come to the surface to breathe. I see that it can also survive out of water! I go get a ruler to measure it, and when I come back it is gone. I look around for it and find it by a light switch, and sit down to watch what it does. It looks like it is trying to get through the wall, and then it finds a way through the outlet to an exposed plug. It wants to unplug the cord so I unplug it and the lights go off. The fish puts its sea urchin-like head to the plug and the lights go back on. It can produce energy!

I take it back to the table to study it some more. When it begins to look tired I put it back in the water, but it doesn't seem happier. I think, "If it produces energy, then it probably feeds on energy, too." I unscrew the light bulb, and put the fish's head to the screw in the outlet. The fish begins to glow. I leave it there for a couple of minutes and then put it back into the water. It swims around and around in circles, over and over.

I can't stop moving, myself, and while I pace around my lab I ponder, "How does it get energy in the ocean?" I think about this for a while, and wonder if maybe the fish hangs onto electric eels to get energy.

The fish finally calms down and I measure it. This one is

one foot long, and is likely an adult. It weighs only 0.8 pounds. I keep the fish to study more and write down what I have learned. I later find out what it eats—clams and mussels. It is unable to open the clam while it is still alive, so it gives the clam a shock, paralyzing it, and then the fish takes out the meat of the clam while its mouth hangs open.

Before I return the fish to the ocean, I give it a name and put a camera on it. I name it the Electromeep. I drive the *Apple* to the place in the bay where I had found it and let it go. When I get back to the base, I log onto my computer and connect to the camera that monitors the Electromeep. I see it swim off in a school, and that I'd been right that it feeds off of electric eels. It hooks onto one and takes its energy, and then feeds its babies with this energy.

This fish could be how we use energy now. But I don't want us just to take them and make them produce energy. I want them to feel like they are in their own home in the sea. "They like to produce energy, so we could make boxes that the Electromeeps could swim into and attach their mouths to the screws inside," I think. "The energy could go through a wire, giving energy to our world."

I share my idea with some engineers, and they design a model that works. It is called the EEMS, or Electromeep Energy Making System. We place the boxes, with cameras on them, in the sea where I'd first found the Electromeep. And I am right! The Electromeeps go to the screws and produce energy that they transfer back to the wires. So now we have a new energy system for the world, and we didn't have to disturb the Electromeeps.

## SPARKS

*DAVID MORSE is twelve years old and lives in Hampden, Maine, with his parents, older brother KJ, and two little brothers, Daniel and Sean. He also has two guinea pigs, Birch and Ginger. David is a sixth grader at Reeds Brook Middle School and wants to be a video game designer or programmer. He loves drawing, Nintendo games, pixel art, and whales. He once swam for an hour and a half with a fractured elbow. David also plays piano and the clarinet, and though doesn't like many team sports, he does like to downhill ski.*