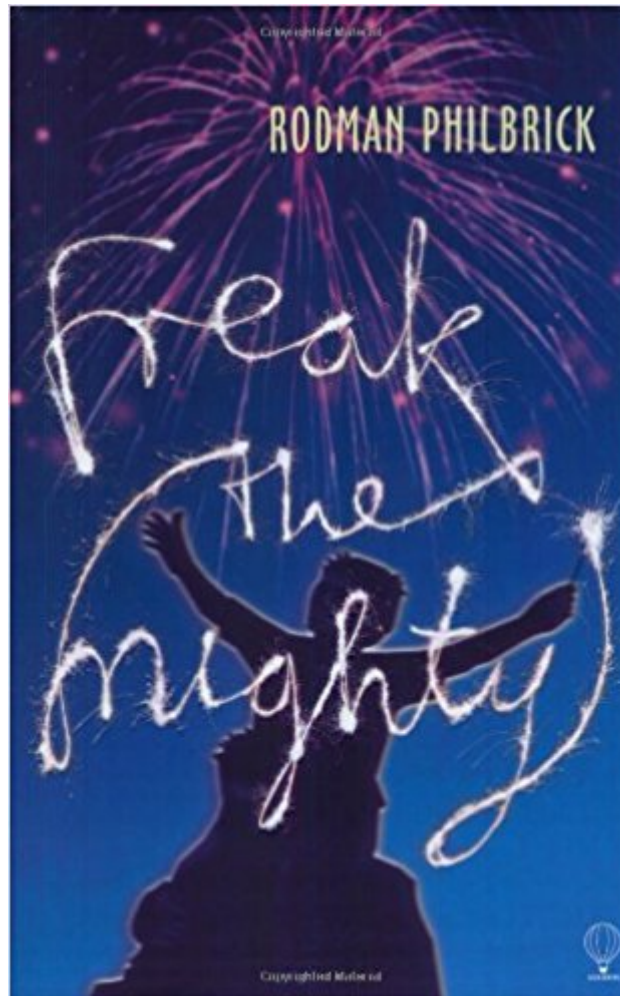




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Freak The Mighty (Usborne Modern Classics)



Synopsis

Maxwell Kane is feared and bullied because of his mental slowness and enormous size. But this is not the only cross he has to bear; Maxwell's father is in jail for murdering his mother. Kevin is smart, quirky and funny with insatiable curiosity and zest for life but he suffers from a rare genetic condition, which inhibits the growth of his body. Yet the combination of Kevin and Maxwell is formidable, when together they become Freak the Mighty.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maxwell Kane, a lumbering eighth grader who describes himself as a "butthead goon," has lived with grandparents Grim and Gram ever since his father was imprisoned for murdering his mother. Mean-spirited schoolmates and special ed (for an undetermined learning disability) haven't improved his self-image, so he is totally unprepared for a friendship with Kevin, aka Freak, a veritable genius with a serious birth defect that's left him in braces and using crutches. Max is uplifted by Freak's imagination and booming confidence, while Freak gets a literal boost--hoisted onto Max's shoulders, he shares Max's mobility. Together they become Freak the Mighty, an invincible duo. Philbrick's first YA novel, already implausible, becomes choked with cliches and stereotypes as Max and Freak mix with B-movie lowlifes, a newly paroled Killer Kane kidnaps his son and Freak himself meets a cloyingly articulated fate. Contrived and unappetizing. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-9-A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame, and loss. Large, awkward, learning-disabled Maxwell Kane, whose father is in prison for murdering his mother, and crippled, undersized Kevin are both mocked by their peers; the cruel taunting they endure is all too realistic and believable. The boys establish a friendship-and a partnership. Kevin defends them with his intelligence, while Max is his friend's "legs," affording him a chance to participate in the larger world. Inspired by tales of King Arthur, they become knights fighting for good and true causes. But Kevin's illness progresses, and when he dies, Max is left with the memories of an extraordinary relationship and, perhaps, the insight to think positively about himself and his future. The author writes with empathy, honoring the possibilities of even peripheral characters; Kevin and Max are memorable and luminous. Many YA novels deal with the effects of a friend dying, but this one is somewhat different and very special. Libby K. White, Schenectady County Public Library, NY Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book! I read it a few years ago. My son had to read it for school. I was constantly on him about his homework and he was constantly behind in handing it into the teacher. His excuse was that the teacher didn't have enough of these books for everyone in the class so he wasn't able to read it and do the work. I ordered a copy for him to read at home and of course had to read it myself. I loved the story of the friendship these two main characters had. I cried at the end...Now I ordered this copy for my great niece. She is 10 and participating in battle of the books. I told her about this story and she decided she would like to read it. This copy is for her!

I used an excerpt of this book alongside *Of Mice and Men* to show a modern, YA view on the relationship between Lennie and George. My students really enjoyed the excerpt and wanted to read more, which led into some great discussions about character relationships and comparisons between different types of friendship in different types of books. Aside from the great learning value, this was a quick read with a powerful message. A truly lovely story that left me sad but satisfied.

Freak the Mighty has all the qualities of a book: tragedy, loss, fun, amazement and it was so good*SPOILERS**When Max said to the doctor "you lied to him. Her trusted you." That means Freak was dead. That's when I began to cry- in school!! I would never ever cry from a book, not even *Walk Two Moons*!!! I just started crying and it was so sad and all the memories that they had....***SPOILERS OVER**I loved this book and I can't wait to read the sequel *Max the Mighty*. If I

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