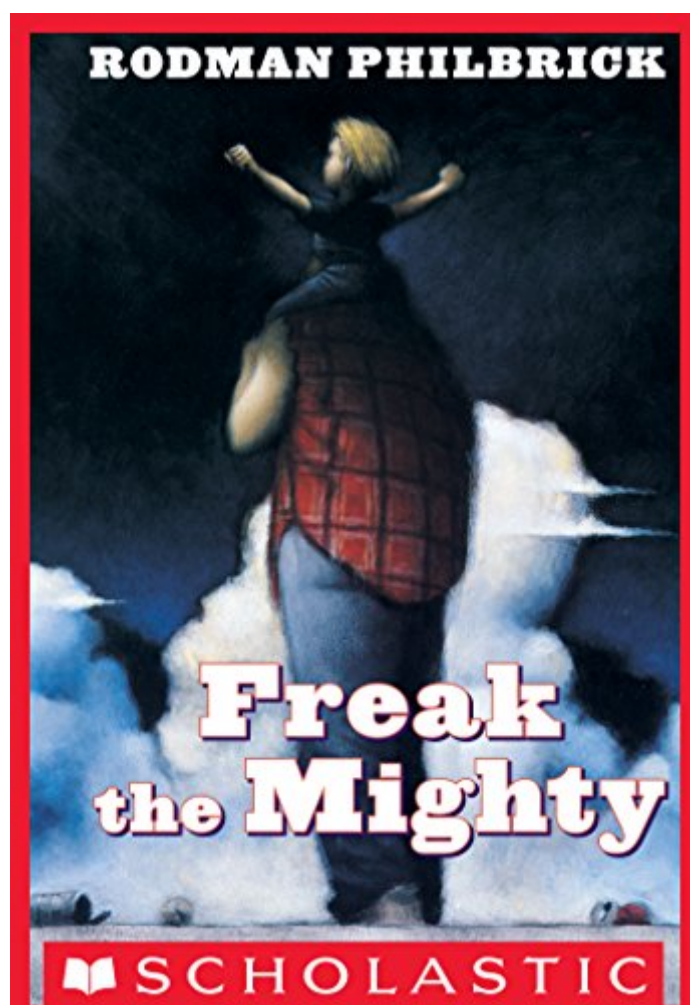


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# Freak The Mighty



## Synopsis

Two boys — a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces — forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. (Made into the film, *The Mighty*.)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rodman Philbrick's ability to write interesting literature that appeals to young readers (especially teens) comes in handy with "Freak the Mighty." This rather poignant and affecting novel follows the unlikely "Odd Couple"-like friendship between Max—who lives with his grandparents, and is an enormous eighth grader on the slow side, yet has plenty of common sense, surrounded by his father's reputation as a convicted killer—and Kevin, dubbed "Freak"—a 13 year old genius plagued with a birth defect that keeps him the size of a six year old. Aside from being physically contradictory, Kevin's book smarts and well-read brilliancy seem the exact opposite of Max's poor grammar and lack of motivation. But almost phenomically, in a karma-like manner, the two become instant

companions. Their "quests" in the "yonder" of the neighborhoods reveal some rather interesting characters. Speaking of which, Philbrick explores the qualities our narrator Max, and his buddy Kevin, without missing a detail. Being thirteen when I read this book, my thoughts all throughout reading "Freak the Mighty" were, "How can some old guy know how WE talk, how WE think?" I was shocked at myself for crying when I had finished the final chapter. Together, Max and Kevin become "Freak the Mighty" with their un-clichéd friendship and dependence upon one another. Philbrick's novel is wonderfully humanistic; there's just something so reassuring in the human race about the thought of the giant Max walking with the enthusiastic three-and-a-half foot Kevin hoisted onto his shoulders. Young readers will fall in love with "Freak the Mighty" for its realistic portrayal of a teenager, while adults will undoubtedly savor its humane touch.

This book has a wonderful plot. Here are the 2 characters that make the book so good: Maxwell Cane, the main character with a heart of gold and Kevin, a boy whose body has the body of a 5 year old but, has the mind of a genius and the insides of a normal 13 year old. They are not the most likely pair but together they are Freak the Mighty with the right combination of brains (Freak) and brawn (Max). The pair go on many exciting adventures including a trip to Loretta and Iggy Lee's house. Iggy is the leader of the panheads, a motorcycle gang feared by everyone. Loretta is Iggy's girlfriend. Iggy and Loretta know the dreadful Kenny Kane who is in jail for strangling Max's mother (which explains why he lives with his grandparents). If I tell you any more I will spoil the book for you. But I will give you one hint. Kenny Kane is back. This is an exquisite book. My teacher read it out loud and my whole sixth grade class roared at the funny parts and really wanted a different ending. I think Max is someone to relate to and recommend this book highly to all kids who love reading and a great story. Be sure to check out the back of the book for Freak's dictionary.

Thirteen year old Max Kane has a major problem with self-esteem. But who wouldn't, given what he's been through? His mother is dead, murdered years before by his father, who is now serving time in prison. Max lives with his grandparents in a basement room, rarely emerging from his "down under" world because he thinks he's too huge and too stupid to function. When Kevin moves next door, though, Max's life begins to change. Kevin, also thirteen, has the body of a young child but the brain of a grownup. The two become friends and allies, combining their strengths and uniting as "Freak the Mighty." Max has the muscle power, while Kevin has the imagination (and teaches Max to unlock his own). The two embark upon various hilarious and suspenseful adventures, culminating in a kidnapping and a daring rescue. The best part of the book, besides the terrific story of a

friendship, is the writing style. Narrated by Max, the story reads like an eighth grade boy's monologue -- conversational, funny, and instantly appealing. This book is a real treasure.

My son who is fifteen came home in the beginning of the school year 07 and was wild about a book, but couldn't remember to tell me its proper title. It has been a struggle to get him to read anything other than the covers to the next PS3 gangster/ mafia blue ray game. I purchased this book on a lark that maybe he might read something about an odd friendship, seeing as he is forever dragging home misfit types to befriend. When the book arrived he saw it and his face lit up, while yelping "this is the book I told you about", my heart sank thinking I had wasted my money, he had already read it. Promptly he took the book upstairs to his room and didn't put it down until it was finished. It has got to be interesting and well written. Best of all it actually proved to be more powerful and captivating to a fifteen year old than a PS3 game. Now my son has asked me if there are anymore books by the same author, smiling I answered "of course my boy of course"

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!

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