

# FREAK THE MIGHTY

RODMAN PHILBRICK





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P O R T A L S   T O   R E A D I N G

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Reading Skills Through Literature

# FREAK THE MIGHTY

**Rodman Philbrick**

**Reproducible Activity Book**

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The *Portals to Reading* series accompanies literature that should be an important part of every school's reading program. The activities will reinforce a wide variety of language and reading skills that are generally part of the curriculum at the reading level of the novel. However, the *Portals* pick-and-choose format gives you the final decision about which activities will enhance your students' personal learning.

The activities in this book are based on sentences and paragraphs especially written to support the teaching objective of each lesson. Clearly, such literary matters as style and flavor may be experienced only by reading the book itself. Thus, the words of the author have been left where they belong—in their pure form in the pages of the novel.

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Author! Author!

### **Rodman Philbrick**

Rodman Philbrick has been writing since the age of sixteen. He has published more than a dozen novels and numerous short stories, articles, and reviews.

Mr. Philbrick's first novel for young readers, *Freak the Mighty*, was inspired by the life of a neighbor boy.

Mr. Philbrick's other novels for young readers include *Max the Mighty*, *The Journal of Douglas Allen Deeds*, and *The Fire Pony*.

Mr. Philbrick and his wife, also a writer, divide their time between homes in Maine and the Florida Keys.



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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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### **The Story in Brief**

Max Kane lives a lonely life down in the basement of his grandparents' house. His father, Killer Kane, is in jail; his mother is dead; and everyone else thinks that Max is just too stupid to understand anything.

Everything changes when Kevin and his mom, Gwen, move in down the street. Max recognizes the short boy with a twisted body from preschool.

The boys quickly become friends after Max rescues Kevin's mechanical bird. Gwen is startled to see Max. Max eventually realizes that this is because Gwen and his mom were friends, and Gwen was afraid of Max's dad, whom Max looks exactly like.

On the Fourth of July, Kevin and Max run into Blade, the leader of a local teenage gang. Blade taunts Kevin and Max but leaves when he sees a police car coming. Max lifts Kevin up on his shoulders so that he can see the fireworks better, and Freak the Mighty is born. After the fireworks, Blade and his gang appear again but Freak the Mighty tricks the gang.

Kevin and Max spend the rest of the summer exploring the neighborhood as Freak the Mighty. On one of their trips, Kevin takes Max to the hospital where he claims he will eventually become the first bionically improved human.

On another adventure, Kevin and Max rescue a purse from the gutter and return the purse to the owner, Loretta Lee. When they arrive, the boys discover that Loretta and her husband, Iggy, used to be friends with Kevin and Max's parents.

School starts again. Kevin and Max take

all their classes together. Two awful things happen on Friday the 13th: Max finds out his father wants to see him, and Kevin has an attack at lunch and has to be taken to the hospital.

But by Christmas everything is back to normal. Max's favorite present is his gift from Kevin: Freak's Dictionary. Kevin put all of his favorite words and definitions in a book for Max.

That night, Max's dad arrives and forces Max to leave with him. They go to Loretta and Iggy's place. Killer Kane ties Max up, but when he leaves, Loretta tries to untie Max. Max's dad returns and starts to strangle her.

Max watches and yells that he remembers watching his dad strangle his mom to death. Killer Kane then attacks Max. Kevin arrives and squirts Killer Kane in the eyes. The boys escape and Max's dad is arrested.

The rest of the school year is uneventful. On his birthday, Kevin has a seizure and returns to the hospital. Kevin tells Max that it's time for his bionic transplant and gives Max a journal to write down all of Freak the Mighty's adventures.

The next morning Max rushes to the hospital and discovers that Kevin is dead. The transplant was just a story Kevin invented to give himself something to hope for.

A year later, Max begins writing down the adventures of Freak the Mighty. He knows that's what Kevin would want him to do.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 1–5

# Making Compounds

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Two words combined form a compound. Each word in Box A forms the first part of a compound. Each word in Box B forms the second part. In the blank in each sentence below, write the compound that best completes the sentence. Use a word from each box to make your compounds.

**Box A**

sling	play
side	nick
<del>spot</del>	bare
bed	bulk
air	nation
toe	

**Box B**

foot	<del>light</del>
wide	springs
name	shot
nails	walk
room	head
plane	

**Example:** Gwen had a glow to her face that made her look like there was

a spotlight on her.

1. Max remembered that Kevin used to show up in the \_\_\_\_\_ of his day care every now and then.
2. Max's grandparents let him go \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer because he was growing so fast and none of his shoes fit.
3. Max's grandpa had a photo album with a picture of him shooting something with a \_\_\_\_\_.

(continued)

## **Making Compounds**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapters 1–5**

4. Max walked up the \_\_\_\_\_ stairs to see what all the commotion was.
5. Gwen and Kevin didn't use a \_\_\_\_\_ moving company, just a local one.
6. Kevin was walking up and down the \_\_\_\_\_, telling the movers what to do.
7. Max wondered if Kevin's flying toy was a model \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Guinevere was Kevin's \_\_\_\_\_ for his mom.
9. Max would rather trim his \_\_\_\_\_ with a lawnmower than read a book.
10. Max's favorite place to think was under his bed, where he couldn't even see the \_\_\_\_\_ or mattress because it was so dark.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 1–5

# Finding Base Words

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Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

**Example:** invention     *invent*

1. lashing \_\_\_\_\_

11. comfortable \_\_\_\_\_

2. forgotten \_\_\_\_\_

12. moving \_\_\_\_\_

3. dangerous \_\_\_\_\_

13. magical \_\_\_\_\_

4. lugging \_\_\_\_\_

14. programmed \_\_\_\_\_

5. catches \_\_\_\_\_

15. learning \_\_\_\_\_

6. creeper \_\_\_\_\_

16. windy \_\_\_\_\_

7. chugging \_\_\_\_\_

17. intruding \_\_\_\_\_

8. propelled \_\_\_\_\_

18. nervously \_\_\_\_\_

9. installation \_\_\_\_\_

19. remarkable \_\_\_\_\_

10. panting \_\_\_\_\_

20. tensed \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 1–5

### Using Long Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a long vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the long vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

range	sneeze	cheapo
<del>became</del>	beam	fried
phony	tasty	believe
slide	straight	

**Example:** Kevin and Max eventually became Freak the Mighty.

1. Gram and Grim were always giving Max \_\_\_\_\_ hugs.
2. The van that moved Gwen and Kevin in was from some \_\_\_\_\_ local company.
3. Max couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ what Kevin was saying to the movers.
4. Kevin's body was twisted so that he couldn't stand up \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Max tried to \_\_\_\_\_ over to the fence without making a noise.
6. Max made sure to keep out of \_\_\_\_\_ of Kevin's crutch.
7. When Kevin heard his mom calling, he told Max he had to \_\_\_\_\_ out of there.
8. Max thought that Gwen's potato salad was very \_\_\_\_\_ and delicious.
9. Gwen served Kevin and Max hot dogs that she \_\_\_\_\_ in a pan.
10. Max was laughing so hard he thought he might \_\_\_\_\_ a hot dog out his nose.



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FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 1–5

## Adding Endings

Read each sentence. Then look at the word shown in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Add an ending such as *-ed*, *-ing*, *-s*, or *-er* to the word to make it fit in the sentence. Remember, you may need to change the word when you add the ending. Write the new word in the blank.

**Example:** Kevin always said that remembering is a great invention of the mind. (remember)

1. Max remembered that Kevin was \_\_\_\_\_ on robots even when he was younger. (hook)
2. When Max was in third grade, he saw Kevin \_\_\_\_\_ at him from the window of a van. (scowl)
3. Grim thought that Max needed to be kept under \_\_\_\_\_ because he might be dangerous. (observe)
4. Max peered out at the moving van and noticed Kevin \_\_\_\_\_ around the sidewalk. (strut)
5. Max didn't think that Kevin was \_\_\_\_\_ to be pulled around in a wagon. (embarrass)
6. Kevin told Max about Arthur, a \_\_\_\_\_ little kid who became a king. (wimp)
7. Kevin found it \_\_\_\_\_ that a knight's armor was an early form of robotics. (amaze)
8. King Arthur sent his knights out on \_\_\_\_\_ to slay dragons and rescue damsels in distress. (quest)
9. Gwen told Max that he was the \_\_\_\_\_ little baby. (cute)
10. As Gwen talked to Max, Kevin dug through all the \_\_\_\_\_ to find pots and pans. (box)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 6–10

# Listening for Syllables

Say each of the words below to yourself. The number of vowel sounds you hear in each word will be the same as the number of syllables. Decide how many syllables are in each word. Then write the number on the blank line after each word.

**Example:** edgy    2

- |                  |       |                  |       |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. punks         | _____ | 16. tight        | _____ |
| 2. seventeen     | _____ | 17. distance     | _____ |
| 3. deficiency    | _____ | 18. lights       | _____ |
| 4. vampire       | _____ | 19. measuring    | _____ |
| 5. icy           | _____ | 20. sentimental  | _____ |
| 6. miracle       | _____ | 21. sleek        | _____ |
| 7. finale        | _____ | 22. vegetate     | _____ |
| 8. trajectory    | _____ | 23. numb         | _____ |
| 9. lucky         | _____ | 24. emergency    | _____ |
| 10. speed        | _____ | 25. underlined   | _____ |
| 11. surrounded   | _____ | 26. habit        | _____ |
| 12. alternatives | _____ | 27. horizon      | _____ |
| 13. natural      | _____ | 28. intersection | _____ |
| 14. mud          | _____ | 29. secret       | _____ |
| 15. assistance   | _____ | 30. heart        | _____ |



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FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 6–10

## Classifying Word Groups

Read the following sentences. Decide if the italicized part of the sentence tells you *where*, *when*, or *how*. Underline the correct choice.

**Example:** On the Fourth of July all the kids ran wild  
*through the back yards.*

where   when   how

1. Max described the Fourth as a day that makes everything  
*real edgy.*

where   when   how

2. Max thought that the main thing people did on the Fourth  
was drink and act *numb.*

where   when   how

3. Max was going *to the fireworks* with Kevin.

where   when   how

4. Kevin and Max were *a couple of blocks from the pond* when  
they spotted Blade.

where   when   how

5. To escape Blade, Kevin tried to walk *faster than*  
*he really could.*

where   when   how

6. *Just then* Max heard the sound of a police siren.

where   when   how

7. Kevin asked Max *a couple of minutes later* if he could  
have taken Blade.

where   when   how

8. When Kevin yelled, everyone looked at him  
*like he was a total goon.*

where   when   how

9. *After the fireworks* Max headed for the food.

where   when   how

(continued)

## **Classifying Word Groups**

### Chapters 6–10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |       |      |     |
|--|-------|------|-----|
| 10. Kevin's plan was to run <i>out into the millpond</i> .                                 | where | when | how |
| 11. Blade and his gang were gasping <i>like fish</i> in the pond.                          | where | when | how |
| 12. <i>Up above Max</i> there was a really loud screech.                                   | where | when | how |
| 13. <i>Each and every morning</i> Kevin came over to wake Max up.                          | where | when | how |
| 14. Kevin wanted to take Max on journeys <i>far to the East</i> .                          | where | when | how |
| 15. Kevin kept a dictionary <i>in his backpack</i> .                                       | where | when | how |
| 16. Kevin pulled the dictionary out <i>like Schwarzenegger pulling out a machine gun</i> . | where | when | how |
| 17. Kevin and Max walked <i>way beyond the pond and the school</i> .                       | where | when | how |
| 18. <i>Inside the hospital</i> was a research building.                                    | where | when | how |
| 19. Kevin had to go to the hospital <i>every few months</i> for tests.                     | where | when | how |
| 20. Kevin answered Max <i>in his stern, small voice</i> .                                  | where | when | how |





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 6–10

# Determining Fact and Opinion

Some of the following sentences are statements of fact. Some are statements of opinion. In the blank before each sentence, write the letter *F* if that sentence is a statement of fact. Write *O* if that sentence is a statement of opinion.

**Example:**   *F*   This was the first year that Max went to the fireworks without his grandparents.

- 1. Max went to the fireworks with Kevin.
- 2. The Fourth of July is the worst holiday of the year.
- 3. Bullies aren't that scary.
- 4. Kevin directed Max into the millpond.
- 5. People who believe dragons didn't exist aren't very smart.
- 6. Kevin explained to Max in technical terms that he did not have ants in his pants.
- 7. Kevin told Max that dragons are archetypes of the unknown.
- 8. When Kevin looked up a word in the dictionary, he underlined it.
- 9. Using a dictionary is easy.
- 10. Kevin saw Blade and his gang stash a purse in a storm drain.



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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 6–10

# Making Inferences

Read each of the questions below. Then read the three possible answers. Think about what happened in chapters 6–10 of *Freak the Mighty*. Use what you know to choose the best answer for each question. Circle the number next to the answer you choose.

**a.** How did Tony D. get the nickname “Blade”?

1. His mind was sharp like a knife.
2. He was in a helicopter accident when he was younger.
3. He almost killed a guy by cutting him with a razor.

**b.** Why did Kevin yell out chemical names as the fireworks went off?

1. The colors reminded Kevin of his favorite chemicals, and he got so excited he began yelling out all their names.
2. Kevin thought he would teach Max about science so that Max could learn something while they were doing something fun.
3. Kevin knew that the fireworks were simply chemicals reacting with air and was yelling out the exact chemical names for each firework.

**c.** Why did Max think that Blade looked natural covered with mud and slime up to his neck?

1. Blade was a slimy, dirty, and gross person.
2. Max thought Blade might be related to reptiles.
3. Max had seen Blade taking a bath in the millpond before.

(continued)

## **Making Inferences**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapters 6–10**

**d.** Why did Max and Kevin dress in all black for their mission?

1. It was easier to move around in black clothing.
2. The boys didn't want to be seen, and black made them harder to see.
3. The boys wanted to make sure that they were easily visible if any cars came down the road.

**e.** Why did the gang member stuff the purse down a sewer drain?

1. He didn't want to get caught with a stolen purse.
2. He thought that would be a safe place to hide stolen money.
3. He put it there because he knew Max and Kevin would pick it up later.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 6–10

### Matching Synonyms

---

A synonym is a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Read each sentence. Choose a synonym from the word box to replace the italicized word. Write your answer on the blank line.

viewpoint	<del>crazy</del>	actually
information	rotten	uncommon
astonished	travel	occurred
intelligent	comprehend	

**Example:** \_\_\_\_\_ *crazy* \_\_\_\_\_ Max pointed out that everyone goes *nuts* on the Fourth of July.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. People were so focused on the fireworks they didn't see what *really* went on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Kevin had an amazing *perspective* from Max's shoulders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Blade was *surprised* when Max and Kevin ran into the pond.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Max knew that Kevin would have a plan because he was so *smart*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Grim looked like he had smelled something *bad* when he cleaned Max off.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Gram was still thinking about what could have *happened* at the millpond.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When Kevin used big words, Max couldn't *understand* anything he was saying.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Kevin proposed that Freak the Mighty *journey* far to the East.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Kevin told Max that the compass was a *rare* artifact.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Max had to swear that he wouldn't tell anyone the *data* Kevin shared with him.



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FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 11–14

## Discovering Meaning Through Context

---

Read the following sentences. Three meanings are given for each italicized word. Use the context of the sentence to figure out which meaning is correct. Underline the correct meaning.

**Example:** Kevin quieted down when the boys got to the tenements and then said maybe they should reconsider this *particular* quest.

easy

exact

ridiculous

1. Kevin was getting *fidgety* up there on Max's shoulders, squirming around like he couldn't wait to get down.

restless

quiet

light

2. Max admitted that it was his *fault* that they stayed at the tenements instead of leaving.

reward

idea

error

3. Loretta wore a *ratty* old bathrobe that looked like it was about to fall apart.

sparkling

beautiful

tattered

4. Kevin *scuttled* around behind Max, trying to keep out of Loretta's way.

darted

stood

laid

(continued)

## Discovering Meaning Through Context

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 11–14

5. Max's grandma told him to wipe the *wounded* look off his face because shopping is not major surgery.

happy

hurt

healthy

6. Max thought Kevin looked very *fierce* with his jaw sticking out and his fists balled up, stomping his foot as if he were ready for a fight.

aggressive

playful

small

7. Kevin told the principal that there had been a *misunderstanding* and that he and Max didn't really do anything wrong.

party

mistake

fight

8. Max's hands felt huge and *clumsy* whenever he tried to write something down.

dirty

awkward

intelligent

9. Kevin *nudged* Max as he stood up to leave and told him to deny everything at the principal's office.

hurt

poked

bit

10. Max's grandpa felt that he had an *obligation* to protect his family from Max's dad and wanted to get a gun to help him do so.

option

sign

duty



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 11–14

### Using Cloze Reading

---

Read the paragraph below. Use the words in the word box to fill in the blanks. The first one is done for you.

reward	apartments	<del>Testaments</del>
brace	toys	Table
smelled	quests	purse
crutches	shoulders	

Max and Kevin decided to go over to the (1) Testaments and return the woman's (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Max wasn't so sure, but Kevin told him there might be a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ involved, so they should go. Kevin rode on Max's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ like always so that he wouldn't have to bring his (5) \_\_\_\_\_ or wear his leg (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Kevin talked nonstop as they walked over, going on and on about King Arthur's Round (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and how important (8) \_\_\_\_\_ are. But Kevin stopped talking as soon as they got to the rundown tenements, which turned out to be a bunch of (9) \_\_\_\_\_. There were lots of broken bikes and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground, and the air (11) \_\_\_\_\_ like fish and sour milk.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

Chapters 11–14

# **Sequencing Events**

---

The two sets of events listed below are arranged in incorrect sequence. Number each set of events in order from 1 to 5 by writing a *1* in the blank before the event that happened first, a *2* before the event that happened next, and so on.

### **Set 1**

- \_\_\_\_\_ For the new school year, Max and Kevin were allowed to be in the same classes together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin quieted the class by telling them about Freak the Mighty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To stop the yelling, Kevin climbed up on his desk and started talking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ On the first day of school, Mrs. Donelli asked Max to stand up and share something about his summer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When Max couldn't do it, the other students started shouting mean things at him.

### **Set 2**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The principal told Max that she received a request from Max's father.
- \_\_\_\_\_ As the nurse and the principal coaxed Max out of the corner, he noticed that the nurse was crying.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Max covered his ears when he heard the word "father" and yelled that he didn't want to hear it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Max was called to the principal's office alone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ As he shouted, Max blanked out, and the next thing he knew he was huddled in the corner.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 11–14

# Understanding Special Meanings

---

Read the following sentences. Explain in your own words the meaning of the italicized word or group of words. Write your response on the line below each sentence.

**Example:** When Max asked about the Testaments, his grandma told him that he couldn't

*set foot* over there.     *go*    

1. Kevin was talking *a mile a minute* as they walked over to return the purse.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Kevin *shut right up* when they got to the Testaments, though.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Iggy told Max that he *was a ringer for* his father, Killer Kane.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Loretta asked Iggy if Kenny was in *the yard* and doing time for his crime.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Kevin climbed on the top of his desk and started shouting *at the top of his lungs*.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Mrs. Donelli *flipped out* and hid behind her desk as Max and Kevin walked around.

\_\_\_\_\_

(continued)

## **Understanding Special Meanings**

### **Chapters 11–14**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

7. Max used to think that all the superstitions about Friday the Thirteenth were *a pile of baloney*. \_\_\_\_\_
8. *Max's mouth would shut up* every time he was supposed to get up in front of the classroom and speak. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Kevin told Max that the idea of biogenic intervention *struck fear into Gwen's heart*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Max's grandpa told him that he *hit the nail on the head* when Max said that it was dumb his father was up for parole. \_\_\_\_\_



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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 15–19

### Getting the Main Idea

Read each of the following paragraphs. Then read the four sentences below each paragraph. Choose the sentence that best states the main idea of the paragraph. Then neatly copy that sentence on the line provided.

**a.** Max sat up and his dad made him put on his clothes. Max thought to himself that none of what was happening surprised him. Somehow he always knew that his dad would come for him in the night. He knew that he would wake up to find his dad standing over him, filling the room. He knew that he'd get this empty feeling.

1. Max wished his dad could have come to pick him up during the day.
2. Max had been waiting for the day to come when his dad would rescue him.
3. Max was not surprised when his dad came to take him away.
4. Max didn't want to go with his dad.

---

**b.** Max's father told Max that they needed to get a few things straight. He told Max that he never killed anyone. Then he asked if Max had gotten the presents or letters that he had sent. Max's father also told him that he was a loving person inside; people were just scared of him because he looked so cruel. He told Max that a great injustice had been done to him.

1. Max's father wanted to convince Max that he was a good guy.
2. Max's father liked to talk.
3. Max believed that his father was innocent.
4. People were scared of Max's father because of the way he looked.

(continued)

## **Getting the Main Idea**

### **Chapters 15–19**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** Max's dad had a lot of time to come up with a plan. He told Max that they would buy an RV and put the name "Reverend Kenneth David Kane" on the side. He said that it would be easy to take money from people because people don't mind giving to a man of God.

1. Max's dad was a minister.
  2. Max's dad had their future planned out.
  3. Max's dad wanted to buy an RV.
  4. Max's dad wasn't very honest.
- 

**d.** Max heard someone on the steps and saw by the flashlight that it was Loretta. She slowly made her way toward Max and pulled the gag out of his mouth. She told him that she didn't think it was right to tie a kid up. Then she tried to untie the knots, but she finally had to cut them on the boiler.

1. Loretta was smarter than she looked.
  2. Loretta came to help Max escape.
  3. Max wasn't expecting Loretta to help him.
  4. Loretta finally did something right for once.
-



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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Chapters 15–19

### Matching Antonyms

---

An antonym is a word that means the opposite or nearly the opposite of another word. Read each sentence. Choose an antonym from the word box to replace the italicized word. Write your answer on the blank line.

firm	expand	roughly
extraordinary	worthless	imaginary
prove	disappointed	ugly
vertical	<del>ruin</del>	

**Example:** \_\_\_\_\_ *ruin* Max's grandma's specialty, mint sauce, could *improve* any dish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Max was sure that his grandma would act *pleased* about any gift someone gave her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The book Kevin gave Max wasn't a *normal* book like you could buy at the store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Kevin's definition of "abscissa" was "the *horizontal* truth."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Max tried to *shrink* himself into the bed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The threat of his grandpa getting shot with his own gun seemed pretty *real* to Max as he followed his father outside.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Max's dad reached out and touched Max's face very *gently*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Max thought the Testaments looked almost *pretty* in the snow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The old lady's furniture was very old and *saggy*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Max's dad told him that when someone is big, people *assume* things that aren't true.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Max's grandparents didn't think his father was good enough for their *precious* daughter.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

**FREAK THE MIGHTY**

---

Chapters 15–19

## **Determining Alphabetical Order**

---

Words are listed in a dictionary in alphabetical order. Number the six words in each list below to show the order in

which they would appear in the dictionary. Write a *1* in the blank before the word that comes first alphabetically, and so on.

**Example:**

5 stupid  
1 smile  
2 smoke  
3 starving  
4 sticks  
6 supper

**A.**

\_\_\_\_\_ dear  
\_\_\_\_\_ deciding  
\_\_\_\_\_ driving  
\_\_\_\_\_ device  
\_\_\_\_\_ dictionary  
\_\_\_\_\_ different

**B.**

\_\_\_\_\_ move  
\_\_\_\_\_ myself  
\_\_\_\_\_ maybe  
\_\_\_\_\_ mentioned  
\_\_\_\_\_ meant  
\_\_\_\_\_ mittens

**C.**

\_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow  
\_\_\_\_\_ turned  
\_\_\_\_\_ throat  
\_\_\_\_\_ tenement  
\_\_\_\_\_ tingly  
\_\_\_\_\_ tied

**D.**

\_\_\_\_\_ living  
\_\_\_\_\_ loving  
\_\_\_\_\_ listen  
\_\_\_\_\_ light  
\_\_\_\_\_ looking  
\_\_\_\_\_ long

**E.**

\_\_\_\_\_ remember  
\_\_\_\_\_ roped  
\_\_\_\_\_ refrigerator  
\_\_\_\_\_ real  
\_\_\_\_\_ reverend  
\_\_\_\_\_ redeemed

**F.**

\_\_\_\_\_ cornflakes  
\_\_\_\_\_ chances  
\_\_\_\_\_ chest  
\_\_\_\_\_ channel  
\_\_\_\_\_ cartoons  
\_\_\_\_\_ cellar

**G.**

\_\_\_\_\_ place  
\_\_\_\_\_ peeking  
\_\_\_\_\_ points  
\_\_\_\_\_ purse  
\_\_\_\_\_ pals  
\_\_\_\_\_ pocketbooks

**H.**

\_\_\_\_\_ never  
\_\_\_\_\_ nails  
\_\_\_\_\_ narrow  
\_\_\_\_\_ nervous  
\_\_\_\_\_ neck  
\_\_\_\_\_ numb



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

**FREAK THE MIGHTY**

---

Chapters 15–19

---

## Using a Pronunciation Key

---

Use the key at the bottom of the page to help pronounce the respelled words. Write the word correctly spelled on the line beside the Respelled Word. Use the Word List to help figure out the Respelled Word.

**Respelled Word****Word List****Example:** (tə ba' kō)      tobacco

1. (spe' shəl tēz)      \_\_\_\_\_

2. (tāl)      \_\_\_\_\_

3. (pir' ə mid)      \_\_\_\_\_

4. (ek' strə)      \_\_\_\_\_

5. (poi' znd)      \_\_\_\_\_

6. (klōz)      \_\_\_\_\_

7. (ī' brauz)      \_\_\_\_\_

8. (skwin' ting)      \_\_\_\_\_

9. (krun' ching)      \_\_\_\_\_

10. (cha' tər ing)      \_\_\_\_\_

11. (stēl)      \_\_\_\_\_

12. (in jus' təs)      \_\_\_\_\_

13. (ski' tər ē)      \_\_\_\_\_

14. (ə ko' mə dā shəns)      \_\_\_\_\_

extra

pyramid

eyebrows

accommodations

steal

clothes

injustice

tale

skittery

chattering

squinting

~~tobacco~~

specialties

poisoned

crunching

pat/ cāke/ cār/ pet/ mē/ it/ nīce/ pot/ cōld/ nōrth/

book/ fōol/ boil/ out/ cup/ mūle/ burn/ sing/ thin/

this/ hw in white/ zh in pleasure/ ə in about

The ' mark indicates an accented syllable.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

Chapters 15–19

# Choosing Correct Meanings

---

The italicized word in each of the sentences below has several meanings. Some of the meanings are listed in the Glossary. Decide which meaning the word has in the sentence. Then write the number of your choice on the blank.

### Glossary

**dark** 1. having no light 2. deep in color 3. evil

**direction** 1. an instruction 2. guidance or supervision 3. the line on which something is moving

**face** 1. confront or deal with 2. stand with the front of the body toward 3. front part of the head 4. facial expression 5. exposed surface 6. dignity

**share** 1. fair portion 2. use or experience with another 3. divide and distribute equally 4. to have in common

**Example:**   2   Gwen wore a *dark* red silky blouse to Christmas dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Kevin made a funny *face* as he held up his plate and asked for more food.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Max ate more than his *share* of Gram's mint sauce.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. There was a *direction* on Max's present from Kevin that told him to Press Here and Be Amazed.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Max's grandpa liked to *share* tales with the others about his childhood.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Max's bedroom grew *dark* as he tried to fall asleep.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Suddenly, Max's dad's *face* appeared from the shadows.

(continued)



## Choosing Correct Meanings

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 15–19

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Max was forced to *face* his past as he looked into his dad's face.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Max and his dad moved in the *direction* of the Testaments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Max turned to *face* his dad as he answered him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Max thought his dad and Iggy might *share* many personality traits, but Loretta would have disagreed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Loretta didn't worry about saving *face*; instead, she just did what she wanted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Loretta tried to *share* the pizza with Max and his dad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Max's dad showed his *dark* side when he tied Max up with the rope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Max's dad gave him *direction* as he went down the old stairs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Loretta finally used the jagged *face* of the boiler to cut Max free.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

**FREAK THE MIGHTY**

---

Chapters 20–25

## **Using Guide Words**

---

At the top of each dictionary page are guide words. These words are the first and last words on a dictionary page. The other words on the page fall in alphabetical order between the guide words.

Put the words in the word box in alphabetical order under the correct guide words. The first one has been done for you.

floaty

fingers

cold

bird

brainwashed

hard

fast

fierce

**ankles**

million

frantic

mighty

repeating

teasing

man

locked

numbest

pinhead

**act—fin****final—march****mare—tongue**1. ankles

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_



## Chapters 20–25

Think about how Max escapes. Then describe this event to someone who has not read the book. Remember to include details about the setting, how Kevin helped, how Max felt, and so on.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

Chapters 20–25

### Writing a Journal Sample

Imagine that you are Max. In the sample journal below, write about how you felt on Kevin's birthday when he got sick and had to go to the hospital.




Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

Chapters 20–25

### **Creating a Picture**

---

Draw one of the scenes the author describes in chapters 20–25 of *Freak the Mighty*. Then write your own description of what you have drawn.

---

---

---



Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

### Using Descriptive Words

List four words that can be used to describe each of the italicized words below. Write your words on the blanks. Be creative.

**Example:** *ghost*

1. *pale*
2. *spooky*
3. *mischievous*
4. *floating*

**A.** *robots*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** *Max*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** *Kevin*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** *quests*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**E.** *Killer Kane*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**F.** *fireworks*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_





Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

### **Explaining Feelings**

The questions below ask you to describe the feelings you had as you read the book. Read each question carefully. Write your response on the lines provided. Explain why you felt the way you did. Be sure to use complete sentences.

1. How did you feel when Max first met Kevin after they became neighbors?

---

---

---

2. How did you feel when Blade was bugging Max and Kevin?

---

---

---

3. How did you feel when Max and Kevin returned Loretta's purse to her?

---

---

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(continued)



## **Explaining Feelings**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did you feel when Max found out his dad would be released on parole?

---

---

---

5. How did you feel when Max's dad took Max away?

---

---

---

6. How did you feel when Loretta and Kevin helped rescue Max?

---

---

---

7. How did you feel when Kevin died?

---

---

---



---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

---

# Optional Spelling and Vocabulary Lists

---

Here are five word lists from the book. The words can be used as spelling or vocabulary words.

### Chapters 1–5

medicine	mechanical
fierce	demeanor
persuaded	beautiful
private	limitations
miniature	fuming
dynamite	foreign
attitude	tenements
consequences	secret
mattress	flinch
flimsy	maniac

### Chapters 6–10

alias	universal
oxygen	dangerous
elements	artifact
knife	experiments
cavalry	divulged
request	remarkable
genius	observation
confrontation	camouflage
quest	retrieval
dictionary	mission

### Chapters 11–14

fiends	straight
squinting	principal
carnival	accident
urgency	tutor
champions	ceiling
magician	American
adventure	cafeteria
rubbish	ambulance
special	intervention
treasure	parole

(continued)

## **Optional Spelling and Vocabulary Lists**

### **Chapters 15–19**

ornaments	accomplished
entertain	motorcycle
explosive	dysfunctional
regular	situation
hypnotized	perfume
surprise	vitamins
photograph	temporary
deprived	illiterate
hamsters	precaution
shelter	transportation

### **Chapters 20–25**

corduroy	glaciers
villain	invention
reliable	obnoxious
trigger	prodigy
faint	seizure
abduction	puny
adoption	intensive
curiosity	facilitate
dynamic	stabilized
testify	unvanquished



---

## FREAK THE MIGHTY

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# **Supplementary Activities**

---

Below is a list of ideas that could be used as supplementary or culminating activities.

I. Oral reading

- A. To the entire class
- B. To each other
- C. To the teacher
- D. To a tape recorder

II. Group discussions

- A. Author's writing style
- B. Ideas gained from the book
- C. Parts of the book
  - 1. Most important
  - 2. Most humorous
  - 3. Most saddening
  - 4. Most exciting
  - 5. Most liked
- D. Characters
  - 1. Did the characters seem real?
  - 2. What did you like best about each character?
  - 3. What did you dislike most about each character?
  - 4. Which character was your favorite? Why?
  - 5. List questions to ask each character.

(continued)

## **Supplementary Activities**

III. Spelling bee using words from the book

IV. Role-play situations from the book

V. Artistic creations

A. Murals

B. Dioramas

C. Book jackets

D. Posters

E. Puppets

F. Poetry

G. Costumes

H. Portraits

I. Mobiles

J. Songs

K. Newspaper headlines, articles, and drawings

VI. Research

A. Morquio syndrome

B. Robots

C. King Arthur

D. Dictionaries

E. How fireworks work

VII. Read other books by Rodman Philbrick



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## **Response Key**

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### **WORD ATTACK SKILLS**

#### **Making Compounds (page 9)**

1. playroom; 2. barefoot; 3. slingshot; 4. bulkhead; 5. nationwide; 6. sidewalk;  
7. airplane; 8. nickname; 9. toenails; 10. bedsprings

#### **Finding Base Words (page 11)**

1. lash; 2. forgot; 3. danger; 4. lug; 5. catch; 6. creep; 7. chug; 8. propel; 9. install;  
10. pant; 11. comfort; 12. move; 13. magic; 14. program; 15. learn; 16. wind; 17. intrude;  
18. nervous or nerve; 19. remark; 20. tense

#### **Using Long Vowels (page 12)**

1. phony; 2. cheapo; 3. believe; 4. straight; 5. slide; 6. range; 7. beam; 8. tasty; 9. fried;  
10. sneeze

#### **Adding Endings (page 13)**

1. hooked; 2. scowling; 3. observation; 4. strutting; 5. embarrassed; 6. wimpy;  
7. amazing; 8. quests; 9. cutest; 10. boxes

#### **Listening for Syllables (page 14)**

1. 1; 2. 3; 3. 4; 4. 2; 5. 2; 6. 3; 7. 3; 8. 4; 9. 2; 10. 1; 11. 3; 12. 4; 13. 3; 14. 1; 15. 3; 16. 1;  
17. 2; 18. 1; 19. 3; 20. 4; 21. 1; 22. 3; 23. 1; 24. 4; 25. 3; 26. 2; 27. 3; 28. 4; 29. 2; 30. 1

---

### **COMPREHENSION SKILLS**

#### **Classifying Word Groups (page 15)**

1. how; 2. how; 3. where; 4. where; 5. how; 6. when; 7. when; 8. how; 9. when;  
10. where; 11. how; 12. where; 13. when; 14. where; 15. where; 16. how; 17. where;  
18. where; 19. when; 20. how

#### **Determining Fact and Opinion (page 17)**

1. F; 2. O; 3. O; 4. F; 5. O; 6. F; 7. F; 8. F; 9. O; 10. F

#### **Making Inferences (page 18)**

a. 3; b. 3; c. 1; d. 2; e. 1

#### **Matching Synonyms (page 20)**

1. actually; 2. viewpoint; 3. astonished; 4. intelligent; 5. rotten; 6. occurred;  
7. comprehend; 8. travel; 9. uncommon; 10. information

---

**Discovering Meaning Through Context** (page 21)

1. restless; 2. error; 3. tattered; 4. darted; 5. hurt; 6. aggressive; 7. mistake; 8. awkward; 9. poked; 10. duty

**Using Cloze Reading** (page 23)

1. Testaments; 2. purse; 3. reward; 4. shoulders; 5. crutches; 6. brace; 7. Table; 8. quests; 9. apartments; 10. toys; 11. smelled

**Sequencing Events** (page 24)

Set 1: 1; 5; 4; 2; 3

Set 2: 2; 5; 3; 1; 4

**Understanding Special Meanings** (page 25)

1. extremely fast; 2. stopped talking; 3. looked exactly like; 4. prison; 5. as loud as he could; 6. got scared; 7. not true; 8. Max couldn't talk; 9. scared Gwen; 10. was exactly right

**Getting the Main Idea** (page 27)

a. Max was not surprised when his dad came to take him away; b. Max's father wanted to convince Max that he was a good guy; c. Max's dad had their future planned out; d. Loretta came to help Max escape.

**Matching Antonyms** (page 29)

1. disappointed; 2. extraordinary; 3. vertical; 4. expand; 5. imaginary; 6. roughly; 7. ugly; 8. firm; 9. prove; 10. worthless

---

**STUDY SKILLS**

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**Determining Alphabetical Order** (page 30)

A. 1; 2; 6; 3; 4; 5

B. 5; 6; 1; 3; 2; 4

C. 5; 6; 2; 1; 4; 3

D. 3; 6; 2; 1; 5; 4

E. 4; 6; 3; 1; 5; 2

F. 6; 3; 5; 4; 1; 2

G. 3; 2; 5; 6; 1; 4

H. 5; 1; 2; 4; 3; 6

**Using a Pronunciation Key** (page 31)

1. specialties; 2. tale; 3. pyramid; 4. extra; 5. poisoned; 6. clothes; 7. eyebrows; 8. squinting; 9. crunching; 10. chattering; 11. steal; 12. injustice; 13. skittery; 14. accommodations

---

**Choosing Correct Meanings** (page 32)

1. 4; 2. 1; 3. 1; 4. 2; 5. 1; 6. 3; 7. 1; 8. 3; 9. 2; 10. 4; 11. 6; 12. 3; 13. 3; 14. 2; 15. 5

**Using Guide Words** (page 34)

**act—fin**                      **final—march**                      **mare—tongue**

- |                |            |              |
|----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ankles      | 1. fingers | 1. mighty    |
| 2. bird        | 2. floaty  | 2. million   |
| 3. brainwashed | 3. frantic | 3. numbest   |
| 4. cold        | 4. hard    | 4. pinhead   |
| 5. fast        | 5. locked  | 5. repeating |
| 6. fierce      | 6. man     | 6. teasing   |

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**CREATIVE SKILLS**

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**Recalling an Event** (page 35)

Responses will vary.

**Writing a Journal Sample** (page 36)

Responses will vary.

**Creating a Picture** (page 37)

Responses will vary.

**Using Descriptive Words** (page 38)

Responses will vary.

**Writing a Book Recommendation** (page 39)

Responses will vary.

**Explaining Feelings** (page 40)

Responses will vary.





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## FREAK THE MIGHTY

### **WORD ATTACK SKILLS**

Making Compounds  
Finding Base Words  
Using Long Vowels  
Adding Endings  
Listening for Syllables

### **COMPREHENSION SKILLS**

Classifying Word Groups  
Determining Fact and Opinion  
Making Inferences  
Matching Synonyms  
Discovering Meaning  
    Through Context  
Using Cloze Reading  
Sequencing Events  
Understanding Special Meanings  
Getting the Main Idea  
Matching Antonyms

### **STUDY SKILLS**

Determining Alphabetical Order  
Using a Pronunciation Key  
Choosing Correct Meanings  
Using Guide Words

### **CREATIVE SKILLS**

Recalling an Event  
Writing a Journal Sample  
Creating a Picture  
Using Descriptive Words  
Writing a Book Recommendation  
Explaining Feelings  
Supplementary Activities

### **SPELLING AND VOCABULARY**

Optional Spelling and  
Vocabulary Lists

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