Freak The Mighty Study Guide
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<th>Term</th>
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**Freak the Mighty**  
_by Rodman Philbrick_

## PRE-Reading Activity

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
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<td>Author:</td>
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Read the title and look at the picture. Read the names of some of the chapters. What do you predict the novel will be about?

| What is found at the end of the book? Why do you think it was included? |  

Explain what you think of when you scan the book. Does it remind you of another book you have read?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARACTER</th>
<th>NICKNAME &amp; ROLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Mrs. Addison</td>
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<td>Loretta Lee</td>
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<td>Kenny Kane</td>
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Chapter 1

1. Who is narrating the story? In what point of view is the story told?

2. List FIVE points about how the author describes himself. Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

3. Who does the narrator live with? Explain how they feel about him.

4. What is Grim’s opinion of the narrator’s father? Give PROOF—quote from the story.

5. When did Kevin and Max first meet?

6. Describe little Freak. Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

7. How old is Max at the end of Chapter 1? Explain what is happening to him.
Chapter 2

1. Describe the “down under.” Does Max like the “down under”? 

2. When does the story take place? (setting)

3. Who are the new neighbors? Describe them (Make FIVE points). Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

4. Describe the meeting between Max and Kevin.

Chapter 3

1. Max says Kevin “scared” him. Explain what he meant.

2. Why is Max waving his crutch at the tree?
4. At the end of the chapter, where is Max pulling Kevin?

5. Use the Venn Diagram to compare Max and Kevin.

How are they ALIKE? How are they DIFFERENT?
Chapter 4

1. Where does Chapter 4 take place? (setting)

2. What is Kevin's reaction to the "down under"?

3. Why does Freak call his mom 'Fair Gwen of Air'?

5. What does Freak compare the knights to and why?

6. What makes Freak so upset his "eyes blaze"?

7. Explain Freak's opinion of television. Do you agree or disagree with Freak? Why?

8. Does Max like to read? Why or why not?

9. Why does Max think that the Fair Gwen ran away with Freak?
Chapter 5

1. What are the two settings for this chapter?

2. Why does Max go under his bed?

3. How does Max react to Gram referring to Kevin (Freak) as a “poor boy”?

4. Why wasn’t Max excited to have dinner at Freak’s house?

5. Freak explains to Max that his mother is nervous because Max is the “spitting image of your old man.” What else does she says about Max’s father (either in your own words or in quotes)?

6. Because of what Gwen says and the conversation between Grim and Gram in Chapter 1, what do you think Max’s father might be in jail for? Give PROOF—quote from the story.

7. How does Max know that Gwen is no longer nervous or scared of him?
Chapter 6

1. What is Max allowed to do for the first time? Why?

2. Describe Tony D. Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

3. What does Tony D. want from Max and Freak?

4. How does Freak respond? What does that show about his personality?

5. Why does Freak think it is okay to “give him (Tony D) lip”? Does Max agree?

6. What is Max’s solution to Freak’s problem of not being able to see the fireworks?

7. While the fireworks are going off, what is Freak shouting? What is Max’s reaction?
Chapter 7

1. When Kevin is on Max’s shoulders, what does he see?

2. How does Freak steer Max? Why is Max running?

3. How do Freak and Max escape danger?

4. Who helps Freak and Max? How?

5. What is Max’s father’s name?

6. What name does Freak give the cops? Describe why he chose that name.
Chapter 8

1. How do the cops explain to Grim and Gram what happened after the fireworks?

2. How do Gram and Grim treat Max differently after talking to the cops? Why?

3. What does the coffee Grim offers Max symbolize? What does it stand for?

4. Describe Max’s summers before he met Freak.

5. How do Max and Freak spend the summer?

6. What does Freak do when Max asks him what a word means?

7. What does the chapter title “Dinosaur Brain” mean?
Chapter 9

1. Where do Freak and Max go on their quest?

2. How do they get there? What do they do along the way?

3. Why does Freak take Max there?

4. Why are robots so important to Freak?

5. What does the chapter title, "Life is Dangerous" mean?

Chapter 10

1. Why does Grim give Max a sorrowful look after Max says that Freak is not a poor boy? (foreshadowing)

2. What is going to happen at exactly 3 o’clock in the morning? Why that time?

3. Why can’t Max fall asleep at night?
4. How do Max and Freak disguise themselves?

5. Where are Freak and Max going on their quest?

6. What do they find? How did it get there? Who does it belong to?

**Chapter 11**

1. Describe the Testaments. (List THREE points)

2. Why are Freak and Max at the Testaments?

3. Describe Loretta and Iggy. (List FOUR points) Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

4. How do you know that Loretta is scared of Iggy?
5. Describe Max and Freak’s visit with Loretta and Iggy.

6. Why does Iggy let Max and Freak leave?

7. Do you think Freak knows about Max’s father? Why or why not?

8. What did Loretta mean when she said Freak’s father was a magician?
Chapter 12

1. Why did Kevin and Gwen convince the people at the school to allow the boys to be in the same class?

2. Why is it unusual for Max to be in Kevin's class?

3. Why do Grim and Gram agree for Max to join Kevin's classes?

4. Why does Kevin call the class to order? Describe the situation.

5. What effect does Kevin sitting on Max's shoulders have on his class and teacher? What effect does it have on Max?

6. Who is Mrs. Donelli? Who is Mrs. Addison? Add these traits to the character descriptions page.

7. Why were Max and Freak sent to the principal? What was the outcome?

8. Explain the chapter title.
Chapter 13

1. What is the setting of chapter 13? (WHEN and WHERE)

2. How does Freak teach Max to read? What did he compare reading to?

3. Does Mrs. Donelli accept Freak the Mighty? Give PROOF—quote from the story.

4. Max is called alone to the Principal's Office. Name TWO reasons Max thought he was called down.

5. Why did the Principal actually want to talk to Max? How does Max respond?
Chapter 14

1. Why does Max take a day off of school?

2. What is Freak's explanation for needing a new body?

3. Why are Grim and Gram yelling? Explain both sides of the argument. Who do you agree with?

4. Who is Annie?

5. Have Grim and Gram always hated Max's father? Did Annie trust Max's father?

6. Why does Grim go to the "down under"? What does this show about Grim and Max's relationship?

7. Do you think the court order will keep Killer Kane away? Why or why not?

8. What does Max "cross his heart and hope to die" to?
Chapter 15

1. When does chapter 15 take place?

2. How does Grim entertain everyone after dinner?

3. What is special about the shape of the box that Kevin made for Max’s gift?

4. What did Freak give Max for Christmas? Why is this special?

5. What happens during the night while Max is sleeping?

Chapter 16

1. Is Max surprised to see his father? Why or why not?

2. Why does Max follow Kenny Kane’s directions quietly? Why doesn’t he fight or try to escape?

3. Why does Max think, “He doesn’t need a suit of armor”? Who is he referring to?
4. Why does Killer Kane say that *they* poisoned Max?

6. Where does Killer Kane take Max?

7. How long was Killer Kane in jail? What was the original sentence? (Chapter 11)

8. Compare Iggy’s behavior now to his behavior when Max and Kevin returned Loretta’s purse.
Chapter 17

1. Where does Iggy take Max and his father?

2. Why does Kenny Kane tie up Max?

3. Max’s father said he sent Max gifts and letters while he was in prison, but Grim and Gram never gave them to Max. Do you believe Max’s father really sent letters and gifts? Why or why not?

4. Explain how Killer Kane compares himself to Max and how he is treated by Max. What do you think is Max’s father’s motivation for doing this was?

5. What does Max notice as he looks at his father’s face as he describes the injustices he experienced?

6. Do you believe Max’s father believes he has “religion”? Do you believe he is innocent? Explain your opinions.
Chapter 18

1. What day is it?

2. Why does Loretta visit Max and Killer Kane?

3. How does Killer Kane feel about Loretta? Give PROOF—quote from the story.

4. What is Killer Kane’s plan?

5. Why does Killer Kane refer to himself as “the light”?

6. What does Iggy report to Killer Kane when he comes to the apartment?

7. What do you think Iggy is trying to tell Max “with his eyes”?

8. What does Killer Kane ask Iggy to do?
Chapter 19

1. Explain the simile: *Cops are like bugs.*

2. Where is Killer Kane and Max’s new hideout? Describe it.

3. Describe how Killer Kane treats Max.

4. Why does Killer Kane tie Max to the boiler?

5. Who goes into “the black down under” to free Max? Who is the accomplice? Why are they helping Max?

6. What happens during the rescue?

7. Predict what you think is going to happen next.
Chapter 20

1. What does the sight of Loretta being hurt do to Max?

2. What does Max say that gets Killer Kane to let go of Loretta?

3. How did Max get his father locked up for life when Max was only 4 years old?

4. How does Freak save Max?

5. Why is Freak laughing when he and Max get to safety?

6. What happens to Killer Kane?

7. Explain the meaning of the chapter title, "Freak the Mighty Strikes Again".

8. Which character from this chapter could be described as a dynamic character? Why?
Chapter 21

1. Why does everyone think they will “lock Killer Kane up for good this time”?

2. How does Max relate Grim’s advice, “you can’t judge a book by its cover” to this situation?

3. What changes at Max’s house after the situation?

4. Why does Gwen remind Kevin he has to be extra careful?

5. How is school different for Max after Christmas break?

6. What happens before Killer Kane’s trial?

7. Why is Max afraid of growing up?

8. Explain the chapter title, “The Accident of Nature”.

Chapter 22

1. When does this chapter take place?

2. What does Freak mean by “Remembering is just an invention of the mind”?

3. What is Freak's new fascination?

4. What is Freak getting for his birthday? Why?

5. What evidence reveals that Freak was not feeling well at his birthday party?

6. What happens while Freak is showing Grim how to play chess on the computer?

Chapter 23

1. What is Max’s plan when he gets to the hospital?

2. Where is Kevin staying at the hospital?

3. What is a tracheotomy? How does Freak use his?
4. What is Freak's response when Max asks him when he is coming home?

5. What gift does Freak give Max? What is it for?

6. How does Freak want Max to tell the story?

7. Why do you think Grim and Gram just look at each other after Max says, “Poor Gwen? She's not the one having the special operation.”?

Chapter 24

1. Why does Max go to the hospital so early in the morning?

2. What happens when Max enters the ICU?

3. Why did Max run to the medical research building?

4. What happened to Freak? Who explained it to Max?
5. Why did Dr. Spivak say that Kevin made up the story about the bionic body? What does that say about Freak’s character?

6. Why do you think nobody told Max that Freak was going to die?

Chapter 25

1. How does Max initially deal with Kevin’s death?

2. What does Max mean when he says, “for a long time I felt like I was a balloon and somebody had let the air out of me”? 

3. What surprising thing did Tony D. do at school? How did Max react?

4. Where did Gwen go? Why?

5. What did Loretta Lee tell Max that turned him around? Explain the meaning.

6. How did writing the story of Freak the Mighty help Max?