

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Doyle, Ramey,	Wheeler	School: OBMS
Book Title: Freak the	Mighty Genre: Realistic Fiction	
Author: Sharon	Creech	Pages: 192
Publisher: Scholastic		Copyright: 2001

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

Book Summary and Summary Citation:

**Learning disabled and physically overgrown Max has no friends until a tiny and brilliant boy moves into the house next door. The two misfits forge a friendship that gives them enough courage to face school, bullies, and even Max's jailed father. The inspiration for the feature film *The Mighty*, this moving and funny story will inspire any kid who's ever felt like an outsider.**

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.

**RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.**

**RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development.**

- a. Determine a theme of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.
- b. Incorporate a theme and story details into an objective summary of the text.

**RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution**

**RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choices, including sensory language, on meaning and tone.**

RL

**RI.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.**

**RL.6.6 Explain how an author uses the point of view to develop the perspective of the narrator or speaker in a text.**

Include two professional review of this title:

Review #1

**From Publishers Weekly**

**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. Lee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Review #2

From School Library Journal

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

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What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie Author: Jordan Sonnenblick

Title: The Running Dream Author: Wendelin Van Draanen

Document any potentially controversial content:  
Some violence.

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use:

Gifted/Accelerated       Regular       At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

Reading Level of this Title: **Lexile 1010L**

Signatures:

Teacher: Doyle Ramey Wheeler Date: 8-25-17

Department Head: Morgan Nagel Date: 9/26/17

Building Administrator: Carla P. [Signature] Date: 1-6-18

Curriculum Supervisor: Vincent P. DeTillio Date: 4-12-18