

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Morgan Lewis Grade: 7 School: Berkshire Middle School

Book Title: Freak the Mighty Genre: Realistic Fiction

Author: Rodman Philbrick Pages: 192

Publisher: Scholastic Paperback Copyright: June 1, 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: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

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 map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
3. Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

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 clichés 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.

Review #2

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-By Rodman Philbrick. Max has been taunted all of his life as stupid and slow. When he meets Kevin, a tiny Einstein in leg braces, they defend the weak, right every wrong, and solve the mystery of Max's past.

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

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

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

Reading level of this title (if applicable): 1000L

Date Submitted to Department Chair: September 4, 2012

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults

