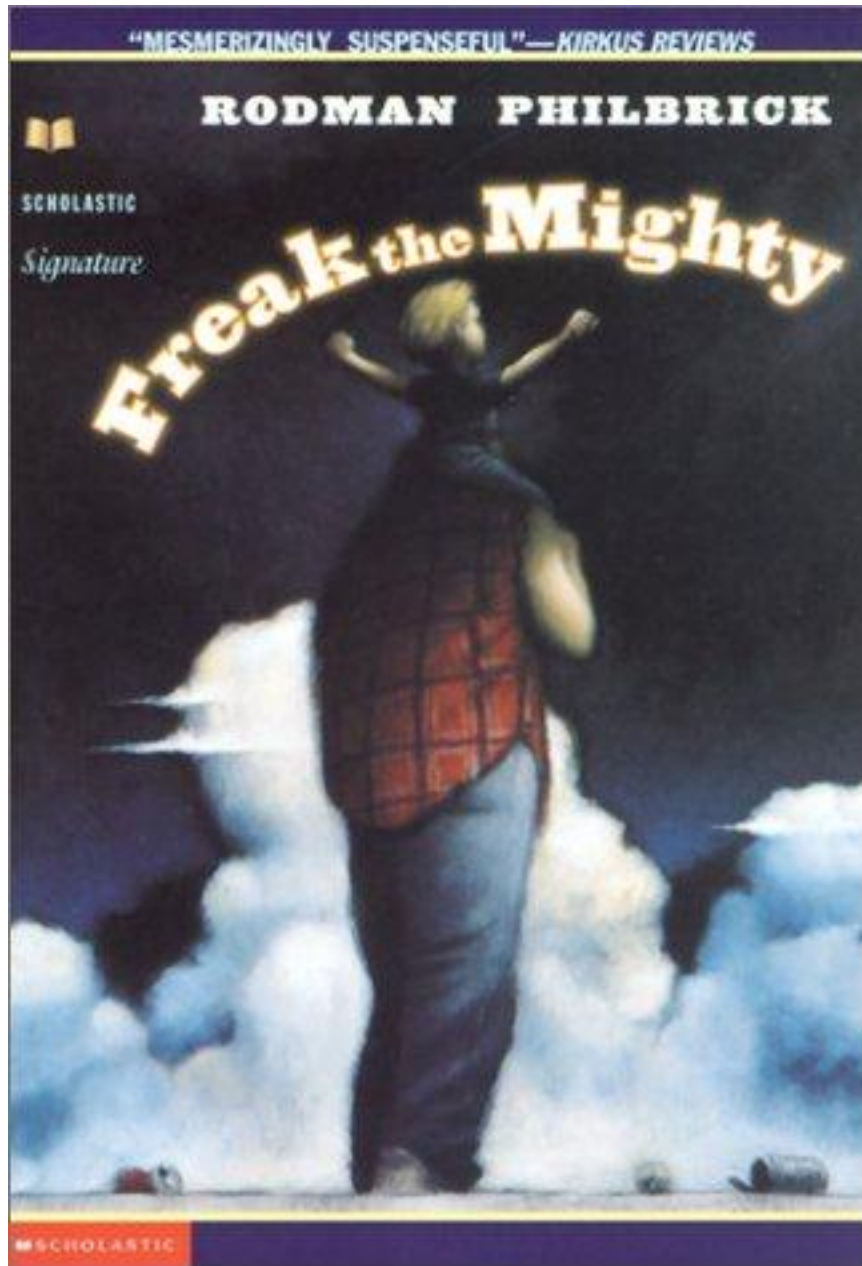


Freak the Mighty



As an individual they are weak, but together they are strong, they are Freak the Mighty.

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Maxwell:

Maxwell is a normal boy but he is too big and isn't as smart as the average person at his age. He can't read and write until Freak (Kevin) taught him so. He is living totally isolated in his room, which he calls "Down under", a room in the basement, where he likes to lock himself in. Maxwell's body doesn't fit to his brain and, therefore, he always feels wrong because if he wants to play with children of the same age, he is more than three heads taller than them. They are even smarter than him, which is quite sad for him because he is always an outsider, and doesn't play with other people at the beginning. If he wants to play with people of the same size, they are too old for him and he doesn't understand them. Maxwell once had fears of getting touched by other people but in the beginning of the book that isn't that distinct anymore. As he meets Kevin, he is learning quite fast but he still can't think that logically due to his handicap. With Freak on his shoulders he has a second brain, which helps him think. Anyways, with his handicap he is able to learn but he needs longer. However I think his handicap is quite bad because he hardly makes friends and he has a low self-esteem. As a result of that it is very hard for him to find a group where he fits in because not everybody would like to play with a giant.

Freak the mighty is a book about the friendship between two „freaks“, Kevin, a genius boy stuck in a body far too small for him and Maxwell, a giant kid who has troubles with reading, writing and thinking. The story describes their unique friendship and the problems they face. Individually, they are freaks, but together they are Freak the Mighty, who fights dragons each day and goes on quests to save the world.

FREAK or Kevin by Ben W.

In the book, Kevin looks like an infant due to his sickness. It makes his body grow a lot slower than his heart. This results in the death of the ones who suffer from this sickness. But even though his body is so small, Freak has a huge mind. Learning dictionaries by heart due to boredom and being better at math than his teachers, is just an example of how Kevin is in the book: It's the fourth of July and Kevin and Max are at a fireworks show. Maxwell is carrying Freak on his shoulders so that he can see. As soon as the fireworks go off, Freak starts yelling out the ingredients of each one. "Magnesium! Potassium chlorate! Potassium nitrate! Sulphur! Aluminum! And there's copper power combusting with oxygen! Oh and the good old Strontium nitrate! Oh this is so awesome!" Later in the story, Freak begins to teach Maxwell and manages to get him to write. Together, they go on "quests", that Freak made up, where they pretend to be knights of the round table. But what Max doesn't know, is that Freak's sickness could kill him at any moment. Freak says that the doctors are making an extra body for him, but is that the truth? And if not, how long do they have left together?

Morquio (Morquio-Bailsford) syndrome

In the book, Kevin "Freak" is suffering from Morquio syndrome, a physical sickness, which leads to the result that the outer body stops growing, whereas the organs do not. Since I really liked the book, I decided to put a bit of research into it, and I found out, that Morquio syndrome is a very rare syndrome. If you suffer from Morquio syndrome, you look healthy at birth, but the disease then develops at the age of two or three. Morquio syndrome was detected in 1929 by Louis Morquio, and independently from him by the British radiologic James Frederik Bailsford. Morquio syndrome can't be caught, it is only transmitted via birth. That means, if you "survived" birth, it is impossible that you still get it. Morquio is only a physical illness, and therefore you are not dumber than anyone else. You can learn how to read and write, but if you suffer from Morquio you won't grow taller than one meter and twenty. Additionally, you won't get as old as the average person, because your body can't carry the organs anymore and so there is no way to live. In the book, Freak is always telling Maxwell about him getting a new body, but in real life that would hardly work. Nowadays Morquio syndrome is treated with enzyme replacement, and/or prenatal identification. This means that you get operated before getting born, which is possible in modern medicines. All in all Morquio syndrome is a quite bad syndrome, because you won't

get old. However, despite the fact that it is almost impossible for you to grab something that is at one and a half meters you can still enjoy life in almost all its beauty. I would say a good thing about it is that you can't catch it after your birth

Kevin´s errand at the grocery shop or

Freaks quest to save the fair lady Guinevere

1: As a passerby would see it

“Kevin, could you go get two oranges for me at the super-market?” “Sure mom, two Citrus sinensis coming right up!” Kevin quickly grabbed a few dollar notes from the counter and went out the front door. On his way to the grocers, he picked up a stick and began to whack low branches and trees with it. As he turned down the corner to the shop, a small poodle started barking in one of the lawns on the side of the road. Startled, the boy turned tail and fled across the street. A few minutes later he arrived at the super-market. Inside, he began darting along the isles, always jumping for cover when any other customer came by. After a while, he reached the oranges, grabbed two of them and snuck to the checkout counter. The checkout-lady scanned the two oranges and cheerfully said: “I hope you´ll visit us again soon.” “But Kevin just slammed down the money on the counter and ran out screaming:” Never you fowl ogre! Run for your lives or else it will eat you!”

2: As Kevin saw it in his quest

“Kevin, could you go get two oranges for me at the supermarket?” “Sure mom, two Citrus sinensis coming right up!” The brave knight after stocking up on some gold pieces quickly departed from the castle. His quest: To bring the fair princess her beloved golden orbs of paradise. After trekking for hours, the brave knight found a sword in a stone. He pulled on it with all his might and it came free with a swoosh. Suddenly hundreds of ghouls and bandits rushed out of the sinister woods. He single-handedly slew them all on his way to the mazes of Repus-Tekram. Suddenly a demonic beast appeared next to Kevin the Mighty. Startled the hero decided to spare the monster's life and retreated slowly. Soon after, Kevin reached the maze. Full of traps and guardians as it was, the knight had to use all cover possible and only made slow progress. But, after some time, Kevin reached the golden fruits and fled with them. But then, a gigantic ugly ogre appeared in front of him, snatched the fruits away from him and bellowed: “I hope you'll visit us again soon!” Kevin the Mighty quickly snatched back the fruits accidentally dropped his gold and fled from this powerful foe screaming: “Never you fowl ogre! Run for your lives or else it will eat you!” The fruits were conquered and the day saved.