

Please complete the following assignments to keep your mind sharp over the summer. **ALL WORK IS DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER.**

**Reading:** You are to read two books; one book, Freak, the Mighty, by Rodman Philbrick is required of all students. The second book may be any **non-fiction or fiction** book of your choosing.

For the non-fiction or fiction free choice book:

Select a book at your reading level, appropriate for a seventh grader. No graphic novels! When you have finished the book, complete the one pager assignment.

\*You will be giving a one minute summary of the book and presenting that assignment to the class the first week of school. Bring it the first day! We will begin presentations in random order. This project will generate your first reading, speaking, and listening grades.

For Freak the Mighty: I suggest reading this in August as there will be a test on the book the first week of school. Complete the worksheet packet. We will review the work and then take the test.

No Excuses List—this list of words should be memorized. These are words that are frequently misused or misspelled.

**Religion:** There are questions for Confirmation that need to be learned over the summer. Your child has this list from me. It is also in the red Confirmation folder. They should concentrate on the questions noted at the top of the first page.

**Supply list:** Please see the supply list given by Mrs. Gallagher. I emphasize that your child needs loads of notecards and pens. We use black or blue pens in ELA. Erasable pens are fine. Get a stash of these while they are on sale!

\*Important note—Book Sox are convenient for covering textbooks, BUT they must be the large ones. Those purchased at the Dollar Store and Wal-Mart are often too small for middle school books. Your child will NOT be permitted to use covers that are too small. If you prefer, paper works really well. Use those fancy bags from the store as book covers instead of purchasing new Book Sox. Book covers for hard cover books are **REQUIRED** for the whole year.

It is not required, but highly recommended that you cover workbooks and assignment books in clear contact paper.

If you have any questions or problems with the summer assignment, please contact me via email at [mfinnegan@stisidoreschool.com](mailto:mfinnegan@stisidoreschool.com). If it is urgent, please call the school office, and the message will be forwarded to me.

Have a wonderful, fun, safe, and faith-filled summer,  
Mrs. Finnegan

## "NO EXCUSES" Spelling Words

The following is a list of words that you are expected to know through grades 6-8, **This is your personal list and they are displayed throughout the building. Refer to this list often as you complete your daily assignments, quizzes, tests and projects. There are "no excuses" for using or spelling these words incorrectly.**

### to, too, two

I went to the store.

I went to the store, too.

The two of us went to the store, too.

### there, their, they're

The rabbit jumped over there.

Their rabbit jumped over there.

They're going to be upset that their rabbit jumped over there.

### because, cause

She wanted to go to the mall because she needed shoes.

Prom was the cause of the shoe emergency.

### hear, here

Can you hear me?

I am standing right here.

### where, wear

Where are you going?

What are you going to wear there?

Don't wear yourself out with too much dancing.

### your, you're

I like your binder.

You're going to need to keep your binder organized.

### whether, weather

Do you know whether you are going outside or not?

Whether I go outside depends on the weather.

### are, our

Are you going to the dance?

Are you going to the dance at our school?

### we're, were

At the park, we were playing football.

We're winning the game by ten points.

### which, witch

Do you know which costume you want?

I want a costume for a witch.

### threw, through

He threw the ball and broke a window.

You could still see through the broken glass.

### whose, who's

Whose locker is that?

Who's going to unlock the locker?  
it's, its

It's your turn to walk the dog.

The dog still can't find its way home.

### one, won

We needed one more point.

After we scored one more point, we won the game!

### then, than

We went to the Hancock Building and then the Sears Tower.

I liked the Sears Tower better than the Hancock Building.

### accept, except

I accept responsibility for my homework.

I accept responsibility for my homework except when the dog eats it.

### affect, effect

Studying can affect your grades positively.

The effect of not studying can sometimes be negative.

### lose, loose

How can you lose your assignment notebook?

My assignment notebook got loose from my backpack, so I did lose it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *One-Pager Project*

A one pager is a single-page response to your reading that displays the big ideas, themes, symbols and connections within the book. We will use this project to review many of the analysis skills we have learned this year.

It is due **September 2, 2025**

### Directions:

- ❖ Write the **title** of the book and **author's name** somewhere on the page (this can be done creatively!).
- ❖ Include a creative border or design that reflects the book in general or theme.
  - This can include words, pictures/designs, symbols, or quotes from the text.
- ❖ **Create** and **answer TWO** meaningful questions about the novel.
  - These should not be yes or no questions, but **how or why** questions.
  - Answers should cite text evidence. **You should answer, cite evidence or an example, then explain.**
- ❖ Draw or create **THREE** images or symbols that represent themes, characters, conflict, or the setting of the book.
  - These should be strongly connected to the book and should stand out on the paper.
- ❖ Include **THREE** interesting quotes or passages from the book that connect to the **characters, conflicts, or themes and big ideas**.
  - Include quotation marks and a citation (page number).
  - If your passage/ quote is a part of dialogue, include the character's name who said it.
- ❖ Write **TWO personal statements or connections** about what you've read (these are not simple opinions).
  - EX: "I could relate to the main character feeling lost in the book because it reminded me of when I got to high school and didn't know anyone."
- ❖ Find **ONE** quote that illustrates **mood or tone** (\*include quote and page number) and explain why that was the mood or tone of that particular part of the book.
- ❖ **Find a song** that represents a theme of the novel. Include the song title, singer/ band, and an explanation of how the lyrics connect to the book.
- ❖ Be colorful and neat.
  - Your entire page should be filled with these elements.
    - If you find you have extra room, add some creativity!
    - Nothing should be left in pencil
    - Your name should be on the **BACK** of the one-pager.



**ONE PAGER PLANNING SHEET: Due September 2, 2025**

**Book Title & Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thoughtful Questions (2) & Answers:

Images/Symbols (sketch them):

Important Quotes relating to characters, conflicts, and/or themes & Explanations (include page #s)

Personal statements/connections to the novel. (2)


Mood OR Tone quote + explanation (1)
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Song lyric + explanation (1)
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## ■ One-Pager Project Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Criteria	Points
<b>Title &amp; Author</b>	Book title and author are clearly visible and creatively displayed.	___ / 5
<b>Creative Border/Design</b>	Design reflects the book's theme using relevant symbols, quotes, or visuals.	___ / 10
<b>Meaningful Questions &amp; Answers</b>	Two thoughtful <i>how/why</i> questions are answered with explanation and text evidence.	___ / 15
<b>Symbols/Images</b>	Three images or symbols clearly connect to themes, characters, conflict, or setting.	___ / 15
<b>Quotes/Passages</b>	Three well-chosen quotes with proper citation and character attribution (if dialogue).	___ / 10
<b>Personal Connections</b>	Two thoughtful personal statements with insight beyond opinion.	___ / 10
<b>Mood/Tone Quote</b>	One quote with explanation that clearly illustrates tone or mood (with citation).	___ / 10
<b>Song Connection</b>	Relevant song with title, artist, and strong explanation of lyrical connection to theme.	___ / 10
<b>Visual Appeal</b>	Page is fully used, colorful, and neat. No pencil used. Name is on the back.	___ / 10
<b>Overall Effort &amp; Creativity</b>	Shows time, thought, and creativity throughout all elements.	___ / 5

Final Score: \_\_\_ / 100

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# Freak the Mighty

By

Rodman Philbrick



This packet belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 1.**  
**The Unvanquished Truth**

<b>Word Bank:</b>	<b>Point of view</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Narrator</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Author</b>
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This story is being told in \_\_\_\_\_ person. This means the \_\_\_\_\_ is telling the story from his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Character Chart:**

Throughout the story you will meet many characters. Keep track of them here.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Physical Character Traits</b>	<b>Internal Character Traits</b>
<b>Maxwell (Max) Kane</b>	<b>12 years old, BIG, looks like his father</b>	<b>Aggressive, dumb</b>


## Chapter 2. Up from the Down Under

The two main characters face many kinds of conflicts throughout their friendship. Some of the conflicts have been with them all their lives; other conflicts are new and frightening.

Conflict Word Bank:      Nature   Internal   Society   Self   External   Aggravation
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Conflict in literature can be either \_\_\_\_\_, which is conflict caused by a source outside a character, or \_\_\_\_\_, which is conflict caused by a source within the character.

There are three main types of conflict. The first is character vs. \_\_\_\_\_. This conflict occurs when a character faces resistance from a natural force; such as weather, natural disasters, or wilderness. The second is character vs. \_\_\_\_\_. This conflict occurs when a character faces resistance from others around them; such as peer pressure, bullying, or expectations. The third type of conflict is character vs. \_\_\_\_\_. This conflict occurs when a character faces resistance from something internal; thoughts or feelings, illness, or their own nature.

What is the conflict(s) our two main characters face so far?

Max:

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**Freak:**

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**Fill out this conflict chart as you read.**

	<b>Max</b>	<b>Freak</b>
<b>Character vs. Nature</b>		
<b>Character vs. Society</b>		
<b>Character vs. Self</b>		

### Chapter 3. American Flyer

#### Vocabulary:

Define the words below with your definition and the dictionary definition.

Word	Your definition	Dictionary Definition
Midget	>An old and offensive term for someone with medical dwarfism.	>Older Use: Disparaging and Offensive. an abnormally small person having normal physical proportions. >any animal or thing that is very small for its kind.
Book		
Idea		

<b>Writing</b>		
<b>Brain</b>		
<b>Zoo</b>		
<b>Human</b>		
<b>Time Machine</b>		
<b>Robot</b>		
<b>Syndrome</b>		

## Chapter 4.

### What Frightened the Fair Gwen

#### Figurative Language:

Freak uses a lot of figurative language in his every day conversations and in his stories. Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks.

Word Bank:    Hyperbole    Metaphor    Idiom    Allusion    Symbol    Oxymoron
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An \_\_\_\_\_ is a phrase or expression that has a non-literal meaning attached. For example- "Which cracks me up, even though I don't understand a word he's saying." (Philbrick 45).

A \_\_\_\_\_ is an over exaggeration. For example- "I never had a brain until Freak showed up." (Philbrick 4).

A \_\_\_\_\_ is an object that represents something else or an idea. For example- Freak's ornithopter (a mechanical flying bird) represents freedom.

An \_\_\_\_\_ is a word or phrase that contradicts itself. For example- "freak the mighty" is a contradiction, usually someone who is a freak is not considered mighty.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a figure of speech that, for rhetorical effect, directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. For example- "The poison never crossed his lips...that sure looks like a bottle-beer" (Philbrick 28).

An \_\_\_\_\_ is a reference to another piece of work. For example- Freak references the story of King Arthur to parallel his own life.

**As you read:**

Find your own example of figurative language and write it here. Include the type of figurative language, and cite the page number you find it on.

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## Chapter 5. Spitting Image

### King Arthur:

King Arthur is a legendary British King, historians cannot prove or disprove his existence. He, and his Knights of the Round Table, are in many tales from ancient stories to more recent movies and TV shows. King Arthur is said to have become King because of his sword Excalibur. Excalibur was either said to have been pulled from a stone by Arthur, or to have been gifted to him by the magical Lady of the Lake. King Arthur is married to Lady Guinevere, and his best friend is the knight Sir Lancelot.

Freak uses King Arthur as his way of viewing himself and the world. Often Freak will use words and phrases associated with King Arthur. Connect the words to their definitions below.

Quest	"A pretty, delicate, or attractive person"
Yonder	"An adventure that has a specific goal"
Knight	"A woman in need of assistance/rescuing"
Damsel in Distress	"A location further off in the distance"
Fair	"A protector of a Kingdom. Someone who fights in battle"

## Chapter 6.

## Close Encounter of the Turd Kind

### Morquio syndrome:

Morquio syndrome is a rare inherited birth defect that is estimated to occur in one of every 200,000 births. The disease may not be visible at birth; symptoms usually begin between ages 1 and 3. Morquio syndrome is a progressive disease, meaning symptoms get worse as a child grows.

Morquio syndrome is treated in many ways, because the condition can affect several body systems. The treatment a child needs depends on the severity of his symptoms. Some children might only require careful monitoring. Others may need non-surgical or surgical treatments to address specific aspects of their condition. Every child's condition is different, so treatment is determined on a case-by-case basis.

### Dyslexia:

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Also called a reading disability, dyslexia is a result of individual differences in areas of the brain that process language.

Dyslexia is not due to problems with intelligence, hearing or vision. Most children with dyslexia can succeed in school with tutoring or a specialized education program. Emotional support also plays an important role.

**Though there's no cure for dyslexia, early assessment and intervention result in the best outcome.**

**Chapter 7.**  
**Walking High Above the World**

**After you read:**

**Take a moment to reflect on the story. Write down any lingering thoughts or questions you may have. Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not.**

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**Questions to Discuss:**

**1. Courage. When do you think Max shows the greatest courage in the book? When does Kevin show the greatest courage? Give reasons and evidence for your choices.**

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**2. Analyze Conflict.** How does their friendship help both Kevin and Max overcome conflicts?

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**3. Figurative Language.** How does the author compare different characters in the book to people and things from King Arthur and the Round Table?

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**Making Connections:**

**Text-to-self:** What did you learn about courage that you had not thought about before? How has the book changed your ideas about people?

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**Text-to-World:** How do you think students in your school would treat Max and Kevin?

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**Text-to-Text:** Compare Kevin and Max to other characters you have read about or seen in movies or on television. Who is like Kevin? Who is like Max? Explain why you think so.

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**Essential Question:**

**Who is the hero of the book and why?**

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