



Freak the Mighty



by Rod Philbrick

Quest...a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something

INTRODUCTION

You are going on a quest to find out information to help you better understand some key concepts in the novel, Freak the Mighty. The two main characters in the novel are Kevin and Max. Kevin was an extraordinary young man who had a vivid and wild imagination. Together with his friend Max, they explored the fantasy world of King Arthur and the Round Table. Through their quests they battled real and imaginary challenges such as learning disabilities, bullying, and physical disabilities. Together they are able to slay even the biggest of dragons! Come along on this wonderful adventure as you another knight at King Arthur's Round Table find out more about the world of Kevin and Max!

TASK

You will have the choice of one of five quests in this assignment. Each quest will take you through a new adventure. There are several important issues and themes discussed in this novel. You will work in partners to complete research on one of these themes and learn more about it. You and your partner will then share your findings through a poster session on the last day of the unit.

PROCESS

Choose one of the following themes and complete all activities for each one. You will place each finished product on your poster board for your presentation.



Code of Chivalry

Activity 1: Kevin showed a great interest in King Arthur. Go to the website below and learn more about him. When you have finished, write a summary of King Arthur, who he was, and what he did.

<http://www.caerleon.net/history/arthur/page2.htm>

Activity 2: Go to this website and learn about the Code of Chivalry. Write a second paragraph explaining what it is to help your classmates understand it.

<http://landsofridian.com/knights.html>

Activity 3: Read about the virtues listed in the Code of Chivalry at the website below. What is a virtue? Define it, then pick five virtues from the list and give an example from the book where these virtues were displayed.

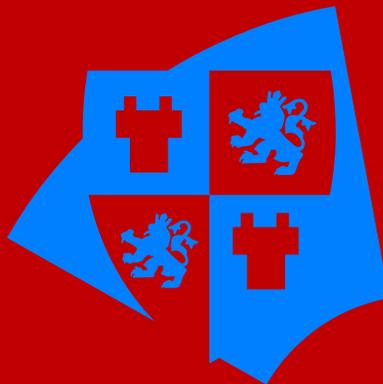
<http://www.middle-ages.org.uk/knights-code-of-chivalry.htm>

Activity 4: After learning more about the Code of Chivalry, make a list of at least 4-5 people besides Kevin who would be at Kevin's round table and why.

<http://www.kingarthursknights.com/knights/default.asp>

Activity 5: The knights were said to wear an emblem. Learn about the emblem at the website below; then, draw an emblem for Kevin and the knights of his round table. Explain what each piece of the emblem represents.

<http://www.kingarthursknights.com/knights/default.asp>



Coat of Arms:

Activity 1: Visit the website below and learn about what a coat of arms is. Write a paragraph explaining what it is and what it stands for.

<http://www.historicalnames.com/origins.htm>

Activity 2: You have started to learn about the coat of arms. Visit the websites below and then write a second paragraph discussing the importance of the colors on a coat of arms and what some of the colors stand for.

<http://www.fleurdelis.com/meanings.htm>

http://www.yourchildlearns.com/heraldry_activityt.htm

Activity 3: Visit the website below and learn more about the symbols found on different coats of arms. Choose ten symbols; then, list them and what they stand for.

<http://www.4crests.com/coatofarsym.html>

Activity 4: Now that you have learned about some of the symbols, pick five symbols that you might represent your school the best. Say what they stand for and why they would represent your school in a well-developed paragraph.

<http://www.4crests.com/coatofarsym.html>

Activity 5: Now that you have learned more about what a coat of arms is you get to put your knowledge to work. Create a coat of arms for Kevin. Show us what Kevin is about and what he represents. Make sure that you write at least a paragraph explaining what you included and why.

Morquio's Syndrome



Activity 1: One of the recurring themes from the novel *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick, is how people can overcome challenges. *Freak*, has a physical disability, Morquio's Syndrome, but lives his life to the fullest. What is Morquio's Syndrome? Take a look at the following

websites and make a list of symptoms and complications for this syndrome.

<http://www.jacobrandallfoundation.com>

<http://www.sspa.org.au/conditions.htm>

<http://www.patient.co.uk/showdoc/40001414/>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001206.htm>

Activity 2: Morquio's Syndrome eventually stole Kevin's life. What are the causes of Morquio's Syndrome? Is there a way to avoid transferring the disease from parent to child? Write at least one well-developed paragraph about your findings.

http://www.mpssociety.org/content/4040/MPS_IV/

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/medicalinformation/additionalmedicalinformation/patternsofinheritance.html>

Activity 3: Kevin did his best to overcome the crippling effects of the disease. What types of things did Kevin do to overcome the disease? Why did he do these things? Take a look at this website for children with chronic illnesses and the types of things they do to overcome what they've been through.

<http://www.morquio.com/mariasKitchen.htm>

<http://www.morquio.com/nancySalzer.htm>

<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/faculty/jfleitas/bandaides/>

How would you feel if you were in their shoes? Write two-four paragraphs about your findings. The first two paragraphs should be about Kevin and how he overcame his illness. The second paragraphs should be about other children and how they've overcome or dealt with their illnesses. Make connections between these children and yourself.

Activity 4: Throughout the book, Kevin goes into the medical research building for treatment. What types of treatments are there for children with Morquio's Syndrome? (MPS IV) How long do the treatments last? Check out these websites for some answers.

<http://www.morquibmrn.com/?gclid=CMqq1NrYhJkCFQ0hDQod7HE3lg>

http://www.righthealth.com/topic/Morquio_Syndrome/overview/adam20?fdid=adam_720667ac7833df3595719ee020ad0f12§ion=Summary

<http://www.mpssociety.org/content/4204/Treatments/>

http://www.mpssociety.org/content/4206/Palliative_Care/

Make a table of available treatments and how long each treatment lasts.

Activity 5: At the end of the story, Max is pretty upset Kevin. What types of support systems are out there for families who have children with Morquio's Syndrome. What types of things do these support systems do? Make a list of support systems and what each support system does.

http://www.mpsociety.org/content/4006/Family_Support/

<http://health.msn.com/support-groups/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100107432>

<http://bexar.tx.networkofcare.org/aging/library/hwdetail.cfm?hwid=shc29mps&cat=search>

Learning Disabilities



Activity 1: One of the recurring themes from the novel *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick, is how people can overcome challenges. The main character, Max, has a learning disability, but writes his own novel. What exactly is a learning disability?

<http://www.ldanatl.org/>

<http://www.ncl.org/content/view/305/456037/>

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/learningdis.html#What%20is>

Activity 2: Everyone knows it's wrong to tease another because of his/her race, religion or culture. So, why is it ok to call someone "retarded" or make fun of the way a person moves? Visit the following sites to learn about how some students feel about having a learning disability.

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/learningdis.html>

<http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/8891>

<http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/15710>

<http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/21883>

<http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/8946>

http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/inter_act/celebrity_quiz.html

What did you learn by visiting these web pages? Write two well-developed paragraphs about

your findings. The first one should answer the questions at the beginning of the activity; the second one should be a reflection of what you learned.

Activity 3: People with learning disabilities often need some assistance. Explain the different types of learning disabilities and how they affected Max and others in his life.

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/learningdis.html#What%20are>

<http://learningdisabilities.about.com/od/whatisld/a/whatisld.htm>

<http://learningdisabilities.about.com/od/learningdisabilitybasics/u/TypesofLearningDisabilities.htm>

<http://www.ldanatl.org/>

Write two-three well-developed paragraphs about the different types of learning disabilities.

Activity 4: Explain what can be done to compensate for any of these disabilities.

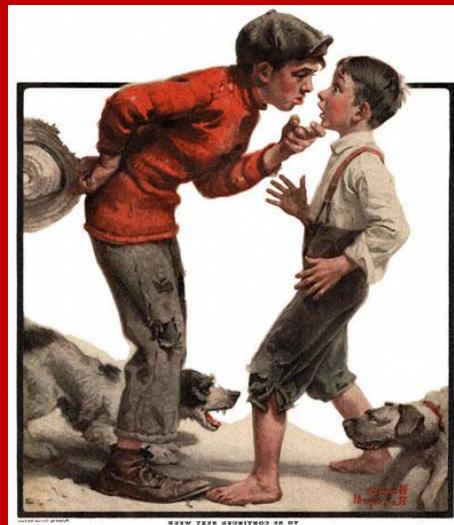
http://www.essortment.com/family/educationalacti_snyc.htm

<http://www.ncl.org/content/view/306/377>

<http://www.ncl.org/content/view/309/456050/>

<http://www.ncl.org/content/view/307/378/>

How would Max's life have been different if he had outside intervention? Write a one paragraph essay of explanation.



Bullying

Activity 1: Bullying is a major issue that is tackled within this novel. What is your definition of bullying? List four examples of bullying from the novel. List at least four ways that Max and Kevin dealt with bullying.

Activity 2: Go to the following websites on bullying. Tell me in a well-developed paragraph what bullying is, why kids bully others, and signs that you may be a bully.

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/bullies.html>

<http://www.education.com/reference/article/why-do-kids-bully/>

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=main>

Activity 3: Freak handled bullies in his own unique way, but not everybody is good at handling bullies. What are the consequences of bullying? Write two well-developed paragraph on the consequences of bullying. Focus the one paragraph on the bully and the other paragraph on the victim.

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=effects>

<http://www.education.com/reference/article/long-term-effects-bullying/>

http://pathwayscourses.samhsa.gov/bully/bully_1_pg5.htm

Activity 4: We are all victims of bullying at one point or another. What you can do if you are bullied or if you witness bullying? Go to the following website to find the answers. Tell me at least 10 things you can do to stop bullying.

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/friends/bullies/>

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=whatyoucando>

Activity 5: Now that you have researched bullying, looked at how it affects others, and learned ways to handle it, pretend that you are a Guidance Counselor and create an informational flyer about it. Your flyer needs to contain the following information:

~~~the definition of bullying

~~~effects of bullying

~~~ways to handle bullying

~~~at least three websites with short descriptions on why the sites are worth visiting

~~~appropriate graphics

## Evaluation

| Category & Score | Advanced<br>4    | Proficient<br>3   | Basic<br>2       | Minimal<br>1 | Score |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| Independent      | All areas of the | Most areas of the | Only one area of | The quest is | 25%   |

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| WebQuest Research       | quest were addressed and handled with a high degree of sophistication. The quest demonstrated a great deal of thought.                                                                                                                          | quest were addressed and demonstrated a great deal of thought.                                                                                                        | the quest was addressed with minimum effort in the development of the task.                                                           | incomplete and/or it is apparent that little effort went into the development of the task.                                                                                         |      |
| Connection to Novel     | Student is able to make a connection between the topic being studied and the novel read. Connection between the novel and the research is apparent and the student points out more than one area within the book that deals with his/her topic. | Some connections were made, and they were explained well.                                                                                                             | A few connections were made, but they were not in depth.                                                                              | There were no connections between the novel and the poster board.                                                                                                                  | 25%  |
| Poster board Creation   | 25% Poster board addressed the issue that was being researched completely. Poster board had headings and results were easy to understand. Poster board was organized in a neat and creative manner.                                             | Poster board addressed the issues being researched. It was organized and was easy to read. There were some grammatical errors in usage, spelling, and/or punctuation. | Poster board was created. Headings were used, but items were missing. The correct use of spell/grammar check would have been helpful. | Poster board was created. There was no organization - papers were just stapled to in a haphazard manner. Utilizing the grammar/spell check feature would have assisted in clarity. | 25%  |
| Individual Bibliography | All parts of bibliography completed with a great deal of effort.                                                                                                                                                                                | Most of the bibliography completed appropriately.                                                                                                                     | Most sources or bibliography missing.                                                                                                 | No bibliography completed.                                                                                                                                                         | 25%  |
| Total Score:            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                    | 100% |

## Conclusion

You should now be a better prepared knight as you have your armor of knowledge to help you through your life's journey. You have done a good job, ye good and faithful servant! I shall see you again soon back at the Round Table!

## Teacher Page

This webquest is an introductory activity for seventh grade students that will be reading Freak the Mighty by Rod Philbrick. The story continually refers to King Arthur and other various aspects of medieval life. This webquest was designed to aid the students' comprehension of these allusions. Morquio's Syndrome, a life threatening condition, is discussed in the novel. For the students to truly understand how serious this condition is, it was necessary for them to conduct research. Other issues are addressed such as bullying and disabilities, so the students were asked to conduct research to make them empathetic towards Max and Kevin as they read. Many state standards were addressed in this webquest. Students should be able to:

- ★ Plan, revise, edit, and publish clear and effective writing.
- ★ Understand the function of various forms, structures, and punctuation marks of standard American English and
  - use them appropriately in communications
- ★ Use computers to acquire, organize, analyze, and communicate information.
- ★ Conduct research and inquiry on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems and use an appropriate
  - form to communicate their findings.
- ★ Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.
- ★ Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, preparing
  - publications, and producing other creative works
- ★ Students use telecommunications to collaborate, publish, and interact with peers, experts, and other audiences.
- ★ Students use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple
  - audiences.

## Credits and References

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

This WebQuest has been revised from an original WebQuest created by Trinie Laplander using zWebQuest which can be found at <http://zunal.com/conclusion.php?user=25278>. Thanks to all other websites used in this webquest.