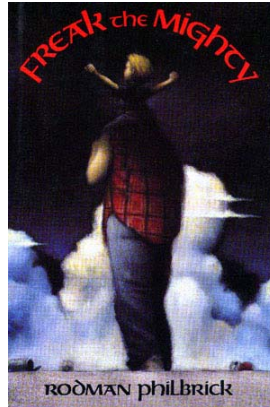


# ANTICIPATION GUIDE

## FREAK THE MIGHTY BY RODMAN PHILBRICK



### PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The anticipation guide will help rouse curiosity and help students make predictions about the text that they will read. The anticipation guide will also introduce them to critical themes throughout the novel. Through the use of this guide, students will be able to practice defending their opinions about certain concepts and ideas as well as open up to other thoughts and ideas. Upon completion, they will also be able to measure their predictions against the actual events that occur in *Freak the Mighty*.

### DIRECTIONS

Prior to reading the novel, *Freak the Mighty*, distribute anticipation guides to students. Instruct them to mark “agree” or “disagree”—whether or not they agree with the statement. Mention that they must be prepared to defend their answers. Each student should complete the guide individually. Upon completion, form the class into small groups with three or four other students. In these groups they will discuss their answers and reasoning. Finally, open up the discussion to the entire class. The questions in the anticipation guide can generate further discussion of major concepts and themes that will appear in the book such as friendship, family, imagination, etc.

Revisit the guide after you have read passages from the novel to allow students to compare and contrast their original responses with current ones. Discuss with the students how their opinions may have differed from what actually happens in the book. Use the anticipation guide as a jumping off point to talk about important themes.

# ANTICIPATION GUIDE

## FREAK THE MIGHTY BY RODMAN PHILBRICK

### DIRECTIONS

This is not a test! The purpose of this is to give me an idea of how familiar you are with certain thoughts and ideas so that I may better prepare my lessons for this novel. Read each statement below carefully. On the appropriate line next to the appropriate statement, check whether or not you agree or disagree with the statements. Be prepared to discuss your answer with more than a yes or no response and to give examples from past experience.

Agree    Disagree

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | 1. People with handicaps should be treated differently. |
| ___ | ___ | 2. People who are very different can be friends.        |
| ___ | ___ | 3. You don't have to be big to intimidate.              |
| ___ | ___ | 4. People are here to help.                             |
| ___ | ___ | 5. Don't jump to conclusions.                           |
| ___ | ___ | 6. Don't judge a book by its cover.                     |
| ___ | ___ | 7. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes.                |
| ___ | ___ | 8. It is okay to be different.                          |
| ___ | ___ | 9. People cannot change.                                |
| ___ | ___ | 10. In life, you can only count on yourself.            |
| ___ | ___ | 11. Children grow up to be just like their parents.     |
| ___ | ___ | 12. Finding where you fit in is hard.                   |

# ANTICIPATION GUIDE

## FREAK THE MIGHTY BY RODMAN PHILBRICK

### APPLICABLE QUOTES FROM THE BOOK THAT COULD GUIDE DISCUSSION OF THE STATEMENTS

1. Freak is still holding tight to my shoulders and when they ask him for his name, he says, "We're Freak the Mighty, that's who we are. We're nine feet tall, in case you haven't noticed." That's how it started, really, how we got to be Freak the Mighty" (p.40).

2. "Grim gets this telephone call that makes him punch his fist in the air and go, "Yes! Yes!" What happened, they made a deal and Killer Kane pled guilty, which means he has to serve out the rest of his original sentence plus ten more years! "He'll be an old man when he gets out" (p.139).

"That's what everybody keeps saying, that this time they've got Killer Kane where they want him, in violation of parole, in violation of a restraining order, abduction of a minor, and two counts of attempted murder, me and the Heroic Biker Babe, which is what the papers took to calling Loretta Lee. The word is she's hurt pretty bad because he cracked a bone in her neck, but she'll be okay in the long run. Iggy, when I saw him that time in the hospital waiting, he was chewing a hole right through his beard he was so worried, and it made me think he wasn't such a bad dude after all. It all goes to show, like Grim says, that you can't always judge a book by the cover" (p.136).

3. "I never had a brain until Freak came along and let me borrow his for awhile, and that's the truth, the whole truth" (p.1).

4. "Officers! Freak is shouting into the white light. We request assistance!" They finally have to use ropes to pull me out of there. Freak won't let go, he stays right where he is on top of my shoulders even when this cop in a boat tries to lift him off.... Okay, boys, you'd better give us your names and we'll call your mothers," this one cop is saying, and there's this other guy who is looking at me funny and he says, "Hey, isn't that Kenny Kane's boy? Must be. Old Killer Kane, is he still inside?".... So Grim listens to the cops and then he gives me this weird look, like, *imagine my surprise*, and he goes in the house and then Gram comes running out in her nightgown with this big fluffy towel and she really makes a fuss.... Gram is there rubbing me with the towel and her hands are shaking and she's saying, "Oh, I saw those blue lights and thought the worse" (39-42).

"The man is an accident of nature," he says. "All you got from him is your looks and your size. You've got your mother's heart, and that's what counts." The weird thing I keep thinking about, what if something happens when I get older and I turn out to be another accident of nature?" (p.139)

5. "You! The freak! You and that giant retard, I'll cut you down to size. Dice and slice, baby! Freak show time!"... Freak is whistling and the cop car spotlight comes beaming around the pond until it settles on us.... "Okay, boys, you'd better give us your names and we'll call your mothers...." Freak is still holding tight to my shoulders and when they ask him for his name, he says, "We're Freak the Mighty, that's who we are. We're nine feet tall, in case you haven't noticed." That's how it started, really, how we got to be Freak the Mighty, slaying dragons and fools and walking high above the world" (p.39-40).