Freak the Mighty

Book Mosaic
Freak The Mighty
Box 2 – Author’s name and 3 facts about the author

**Author:** Rodman Philbrick

1. Mr. Philbrick was born in Boston in 1951.
2. He started writing short stories in 6th grade and wrote 8-10 novels before one was finally accepted for publication.
3. Philbrick loves fishing.
Box 3 – Picture of the main character
Quote from the book:
“‘You can think your way out of anything, even pain’ (Freak, p. 53).

What this means to me:

Kevin experiences great physical pain and Max feels deep emotional pain. Both characters are able to focus their thinking in order to overcome pain. Kevin uses his imagination to transport him away from the pain. Max is able to write down his experiences and come to terms with his painful past.
Box 5 – Picture of something important to the main character

An ornithopter
Box 6 – A significant event

Max and Kevin go together to see the fireworks at the pond on July 4th. Since Kevin has a hard time seeing, Max puts him on his shoulders. Freak the Mighty is born when they encounter the rough and tough “Blade” and his gang and are forced to run into the pond with Kevin still sitting on Max’s shoulders. They realize that with Max’s size and strength and Kevin’s brain, they make a pretty good team.
Box 7 – New vocabulary

Scuttle
Definition: A short, hurried run
Sentence from the book: “Scuttle into your dim hole in the ground, Maxwell dear” (p. 10).
Kenny Kane is a large man and extremely strong. It is from him that Max gets his size and strength. Kenny is also manipulative, making people believe that he has religion and that he has changed, but he is really a hard, cold killer. He is selfish and cruel.
Freak often tells Max to look words up in the dictionary and Max doesn’t like to do it because he has a hard time spelling. This reminds me of when I was in 6th grade. Whenever I didn’t know how to spell a word, I would ask my teacher and he would respond by telling me to look it up in the dictionary. I was frustrated by that, and a little rude. I used to ask him, “How can I look it up in the dictionary if I don’t know how to spell it?” I can really relate to Max in this part of the story.
Box 10 – Meaningful quote

Quote from the book:
“This is why we came here, so Freak could show me where he’s been. The place is important to him. I understand this much, even if I don’t understand about bionics or what it means to be a human robot” (p.52).

What this means to me:
I like this quote because it shows how place is important to each of us. It seems to hint that the hospital is going to be important to Freak later in the story. It also shows that, even though Max doesn’t think he’s very smart, he understands people.
Box 11 – Statement of conflict

Man vs. Man

Max’s main source of conflict is with his father. Kenny Kane kills Max’s mother in front of Max, kidnaps Max, and eventually tries to kill him. The relationship Max has with his father defines who he is and is the source of many of Max’s problems.
Box 12 – My Choice

The Millpond
Box 13 – New vocabulary

Humor (verb)
Definition:
   To agree with someone or comply with his or her mood or wishes in order to keep him or her happy or content.

Sentence from the book:
"Grim, he says please humor the woman, she's worried about to death, so I sleep upstairs on the foldout and at night Gram keeps checking to see I'm there" (p.136).
Box 14 – Picture of Setting
Box 15 – Figurative Language

Quote from the book:

“Television, the opiate of the massives” (p.19).

Type of figurative language:

Calling television an opiate (or drug) is an example of a metaphor.
Smidgeon (noun)

Definition:
A very small amount

Sentence from the book:
"Grim...keeps rubbing his belly and rolling his eyes and telling the Fair Gwen what a genius she is with fresh peas and new potatoes and salmon, and he'll just have a smidgeon more, thanks..." (p.144).
Box 17 – Meaningful Quote

Quote from the book:

“Most of us go all the way through life and never have a friend like Kevin” (Grim, p.159).

What it means to me:

I like this quote because I think Grim is right – Max’s friendship with Kevin helps Max to find his own confidence, to succeed in school, and to put his relationship with his father behind him.
Box 18 – My Choice

Description of Kevin

Kevin suffers from a disease that stunts his growth and twists his body, but what he lacks in size he makes up for in intelligence. He is incredibly smart and has a great imagination. Kevin is not afraid of the truth, though. He knows that he will die. He accepts Max for who he is and believes in Max’s ability to learn. Kevin is determined, sometimes demanding, a little arrogant, funny, and really likeable.
Box 19 – A Significant Event

On Christmas Eve, Max is kidnapped from his room by his father, Killer Kane. His father plans to take Max on the road, but the two of them have to hide in an old abandoned building when the police start circling the area. Max is tied up by his dad and when he tries to escape, his father tries to kill him.
Box 20 – Text-to-self Connection

Max becomes a better person because of his friendship with Freak, but it isn’t until Kevin dies that Max really learns to stand on his own. This reminds me of the friendship I had with Michelle when I was growing up. I was super shy and she was very confident, which meant she did a lot of the talking for me. She was an amazing friend and her friendship helped me in many ways, but when I went to college and didn’t have her around anymore, I found I had to stand on my own and I developed new strengths.
Box 21 - Something Important to Max

Freak's Dictionary of English

Freak's dictionary
Box 22 - Theme

One of the themes of this book is that true friendship can help you grow, overcome challenges, and become a better version of yourself.
Box 23 – Climax of the Plot

The plot reaches its climax when Max arrives at the hospital looking for Kevin. As he approaches the nurse’s station, it’s clear something is wrong and the realization that Kevin has died hits him with full force. He runs through the hospital, kicking and hitting, not believing that Kevin could be gone, until he is overtaken by cops and forced to accept the news that Kevin has died.
There are so many good moments in this book, but I think my favorite is when Freak uses a squirt gun loaded with soap and vinegar and curry powder to take down Killer Kane. I like this part because it shows that someone who uses his brain is able to overcome great obstacles and because it shows what a great friend Kevin is to Max.