

MSS 2025 | Grade 6 Summer Reading

Mr. Welch & Mrs. Mangiacotti

Your task over the summer is to read **TWO** books—*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick and another of your choice from the included list of the 2025-26 Golden Dome Award nominees.

For *Freak the Mighty*, please complete the attached writing assignment.

For your choice book, be prepared for a short writing assignment to be completed in class at the start of the year.

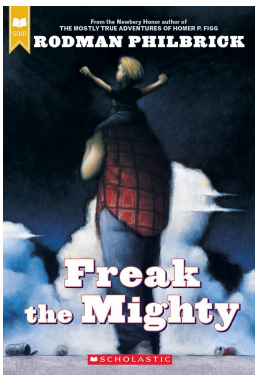
Copies of *Freak the Mighty* are available at the school.

Most of the Golden Dome Nominees are available at the Manchester Community Library.

(Reminder that **all** Maple Street students are eligible for a library card at MCL if they do not have one already.)

REQUIRED BOOK:

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick



A hulking boy with learning disabilities and a brilliant boy who uses crutches due to a physical disability become strong as they undertake imaginary quests and fight all-too-real criminals. The only thing they can't conquer is time. Max knows that people, even his own grandparents, fear him because he looks just like his imprisoned father, who's known as Killer Kane. He's huge, he can hardly read or write, and he lives in his grandparents' basement. But his new neighbor, Kevin, in his tiny, differently formed body, seems willing to accept him. The two become close friends, assuming a new identity when Max begins carrying Kevin on his shoulders. Kevin dubs them *Freak the Mighty*, and they wander their town using Max's mobility and Kevin's brain to conjure up exciting quests. With Kevin's help, Max learns to read and is allowed out of his special-education classes to join Max in his honors courses. But when Max's father is paroled, Max relives the horrors of his past, while Kevin tries to rescue him. (from *Common Sense Media*)

Golden Dome List 2025-26

[All the Ways to Go](#) - Jessie Janowitz. Grades 4 and up.

[Averil Offline](#) - Amy Noelle Parks. Grades 4 and up.

[The Bletchley Riddle](#) - Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinken. Grades 5 and up.

[Coyote Lost and Found](#) - Dan Gemeinhart. Grades 5 and up.

[The Creepening of Dogwood House](#) - Eden Royce. Grades 5 and up.

[The Flicker](#) - H.E. Edgmon. Grades 6 and up.

[Force of Nature: A Novel of Rachel Carson](#) - Ann E. Burg, illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Grades 4 and up.

[A Game of Noctis](#) - Deva Fagan. Grades 5 and up.

[How it All Ends](#) - Emma Hunsinger. Grades 6 and up.

[Impossible Creatures](#) - Katherine Rundell, illustrated by Ashley Mackenzie. Grades 5 and up.

[Kareem Between](#) - Shifa Saltagi Safadi. Grades 5 and up.

[The Liars Society](#) - Alyson Gerber. Grades 7 and up.

[Mountain of Fire: The Eruption and Survivors of Mount St. Helens](#) - Rebecca E.F. Barone. Grades 4 and up.

[Murray Out of Water](#) - Taylor Tracy. Grades 6 and up.

[The Mystery of Locked Rooms](#) - Lindsay Currie. Grades 4 and up.

[The Night Librarian](#) - Christopher Lincoln. Grades 4 and up.

[Olivetti](#) - by Allie Millington. Grades 4 and up.

[Paper Dragons: The Fight for the Hidden Realm](#) - Siobhan McDermott. Grades 5 and up.

[Plain Jane and the Mermaid](#) - Vera Brosgol. Grades 4 and up.

[The Secret Library](#) - Kekla Magoon. Grades 4 and up.

[The Sherlock Society](#) - James Ponti. Grades 4 and up.

[A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall](#) - Jasmine Warga, illustrated by Matt Rockefeller. Grades 4 and up.

[Summer at Squee](#) - Andrea Wang. Grades 4 and up.

[The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman](#) - Gennifer Choldenko. Grades 6 and up.

[The Wrong Way Home](#) - Kate O'Shaughnessy. Grades 6 and up.

Assignment for *Freak the Mighty*

In a typed document, complete the following tasks:

1. In 200 words, write a brief summary of the plot, including the beginning, middle, and end. In your opening sentence, include the title (underlined or italicized), author, genre (realistic fiction, dystopian, fantasy, nonfiction, historical fiction, etc.), and setting.
2. In a paragraph, write about the significance of the title. Authors rarely choose a random title. Dig for symbolic meaning. The title may be a metaphor, or it may relate to one specific incident in the book. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
3. Cite and note the page number of a certain passage from the book that you think is important or worth rereading. Maybe it explains something about the character, or it describes a very special event, or, perhaps, it holds a certain resonance or connection with you, the reader. You must explain why you chose this passage. Dig deep for a connection.