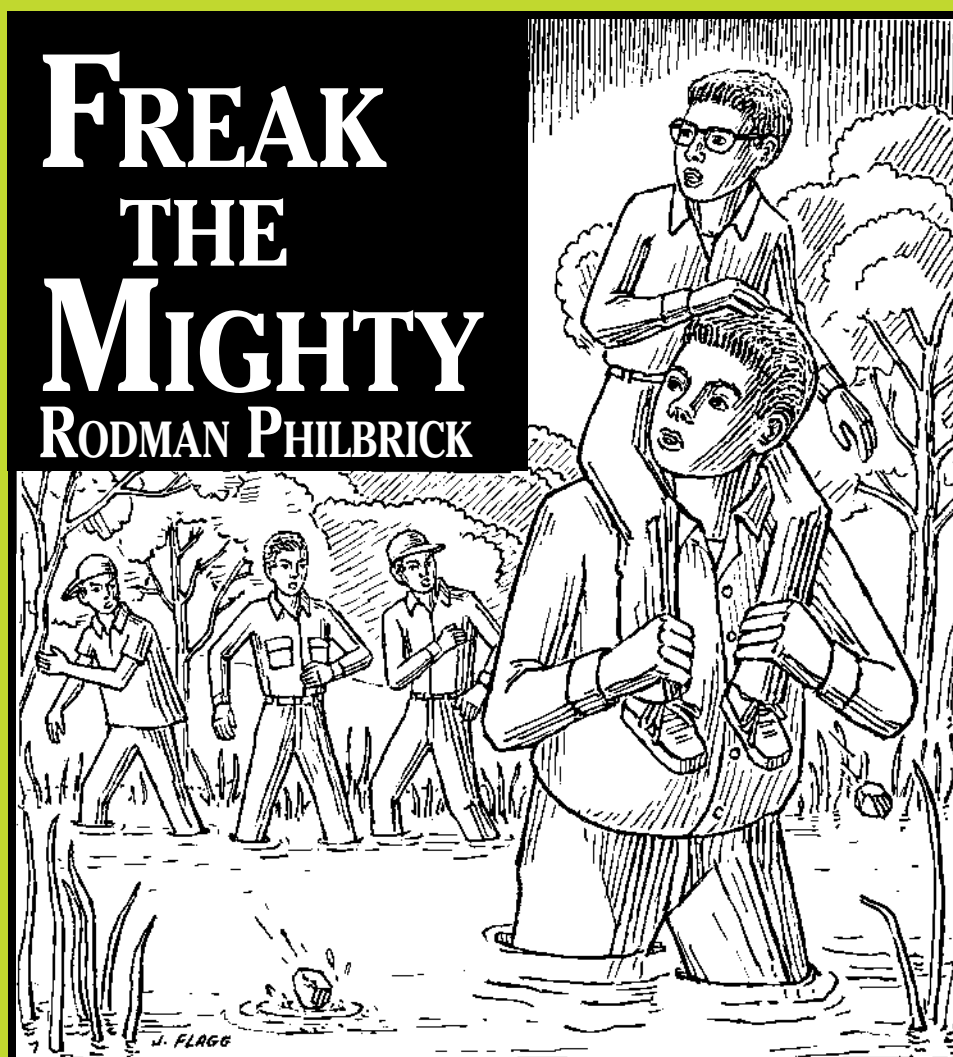


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Freak the Mighty*, consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

Hundreds of years ago there arose a myth of a king and his knights who fought against the forces of evil and formed the greatest fellowship of knights the world has ever known. The legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table is one of the most famous in medieval literature.

When Arthur was a boy, civil war was raging in England because of the lack of a reigning monarch. In an attempt to settle the dispute, the archbishop of Canterbury invited all the British nobles to London. Sir Ector arrived with his son Kay and foster son Arthur. The archbishop showed the nobles a block of stone with an iron anvil on top. A sword was driven through the anvil into the stone. An inscription said that whoever withdrew the sword was the rightful heir to the throne. Many tried, including Kay, but all failed to budge the sword. It was Arthur who finally pulled the sword from the stone and became king.

With the help of the magic sword and the friendship of Merlin the magician, Arthur was able to defeat his enemies and build a splendid court at Camelot. During one campaign, he broke the sword in combat and was given a magnificent jeweled sword, Excalibur, by the Lady of the Lake of Avalon.

Arthur married Guinevere and happily reigned at Camelot surrounded by the noble Knights of the Round Table. Because no one could sit at the head of a round table, it ensured that all of the knights would be equal. These knights were a brave and wild group. King Arthur harnessed their energies by sending them on long and difficult quests to test their courage and endurance. When they were on a quest, a knight would dress in a full suit of armor to protect him from his enemies.

One night, a vision of the Holy Grail, the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, floated into the hall where the knights were dining. After the vision left, many of the knights vowed to go in search of the Grail. The scattering of the knights on their quest for the Holy Grail weakened the foundation of Camelot, which was soon to suffer yet another blow.

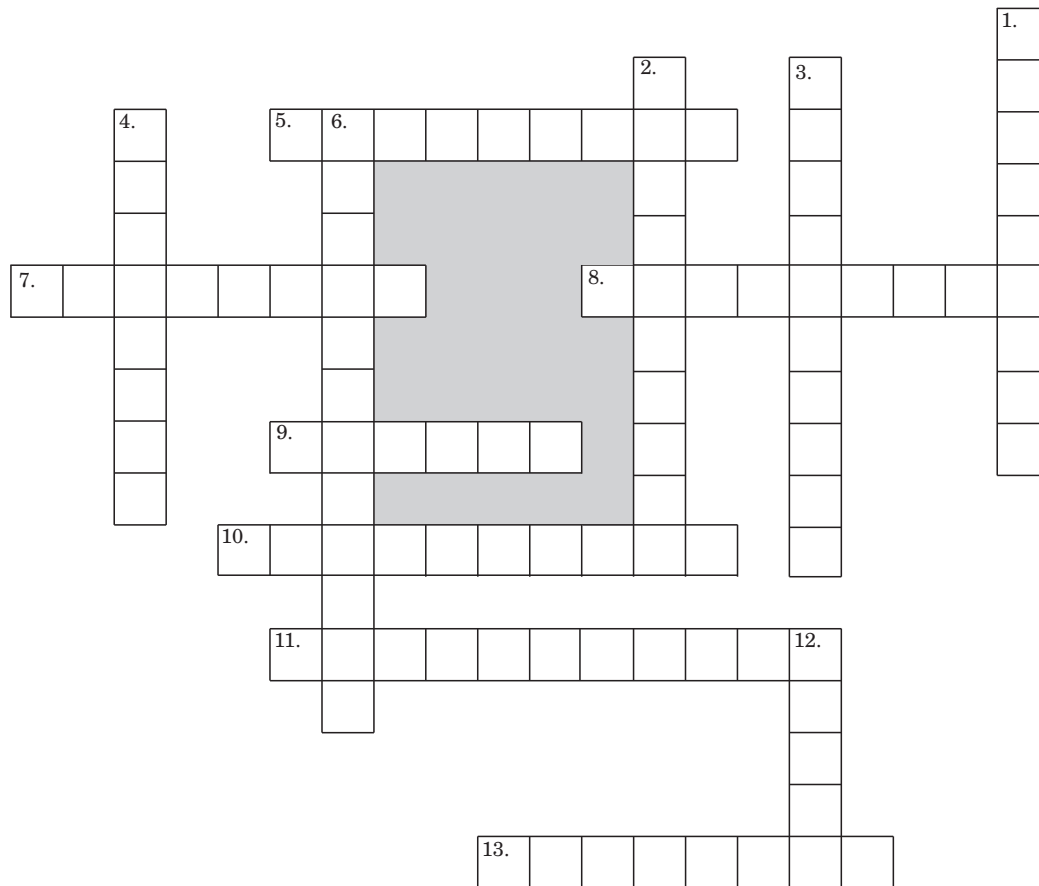
Sir Lancelot, the bravest of the knights, won the heart of Queen Guinevere. Arthur tried to ignore this betrayal to keep peace. One night, however, several of the knights broke into a room where Lancelot and Guinevere were together. Arthur had no choice but to confront the unfaithful pair. When the knight and his love escaped, the court was left divided.

Arthur followed Lancelot to France, leaving his kingdom in the hands of his son Mordred, who quickly seized the throne for himself. When Arthur returned to challenge Mordred, war broke out. In hand-to-hand combat, Arthur finally killed Mordred, but not before the younger man gave his father a mortal wound. Facing death, Arthur ordered Excalibur to be returned to the Lady of the Lake. Guinevere, full of remorse for her part in this tragedy, retired to a convent. Lancelot lived the rest of his life as a hermit. The few remaining knights traveled to the Holy Land to fight in the Crusades.

CHAPTERS 1 – 5

Vocabulary: Use the words in the Word Box and the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

WORD BOX				
bulkhead	expel	intruding	propulsion	unvanquished
depleted	humongous	invincible	regurgitate	
duplex	hunkering	postulated	scraggly	



Across

- 5. squatting on one's haunches
- 7. inclined door leading from the outside of a house to the cellar
- 8. pushing oneself in without permission
- 9. housing unit having two parts, generally with one floor above the other
- 10. assumed without proof
- 11. throw up
- 13. rough or irregular

Down

- 1. huge (*slang*)
- 2. unable to be conquered
- 3. act of driving forward or propelling
- 4. emptied or exhausted by drawing away or using up resources
- 6. unconquered
- 12. force out