A CLEAR READING RESPONSE

**Explain how author Rodman Philbrick uses indirect characterization in Freak the Mighty to show that Freak is intelligent?**

One way Philbrick used indirect characterization to show Freak’s intelligence is when he wrote about the gift Freak gave his friend, Max, while they were celebrating Christmas. For example, when Max was opening his present in front of Freak and his family, the author wrote, “And on the platform is a book. Not a normal book, like you buy in the store, but a book he made himself, you can tell that right away.

‘What I did was take all my favorite words,’ Freak says, ‘and put them in alphabetical order.’

‘Like a dictionary?’

‘Exactly,” Freak says, “but different, because this is my dictionary. Go on and look inside.’”

This exchange between Max and Freak proves that Freak is creative and has an extensive vocabulary. Merriam Webster defines intelligent as “having a high or satisfactory degree of mental capacity.” The fact that Freak possesses the vocabulary skills to create a whole dictionary shows that he has a very high mental capacity. The author very successfully used indirect characterization to describe Freak’s intelligence when he wrote this Christmas scene.

**Claim** – Claims are made in a thesis and in topic sentences

**Lead To** -Lead your reader from the claim to the evidence

**Evidence** – Select the best evidence available from the text

**Analysis** - Analyze why your evidence strongly supports your claim

**Revisit** - Reiterate the validity of your claim