



Max

Bob Graham

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A success story for anyone who knows the highs—and lows—of learning to do something for the first time. Max will fly away with your heart!

As the son of legendary superheroes Captain Lightning and Madam Thunderbolt, Max is destined to join their ranks - once he learns to

fly, that is. But despite his parents' valiant coaching and encouragement from his grandparents and friends, Max can't seem to get off the ground. Will he ever learn to leap over tall buildings in a single bound?

With quintessential quirkiness, award-winning author Bob Graham has created a mighty tale about the ups and downs of mastering your potential - all in your own good time.

Max Details

Date : Published August 26th 2002 by Candlewick (first published January 1st 2000)

ISBN : 9780763618575

Author : Bob Graham

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From Reader Review Max for online ebook

Kyrie says

It was an okay story. I liked the illustrations a lot and loved their lightning bolt shaped house. I'm not sure why it's on the list of 1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up. There are lots of books I find equally entertaining.

Kathy says

Cute little book about a boy born into a superhero family who can't fly yet. My 3 year old actually sat and listened to the whole things. She found lots of things in the pictures to look at and point out.

Jess says

July 2017 - all the superhero action that Ben's into, plus a really sweet story (and no action/violence, for people who care about that). Bob Graham is the best.

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

The story begins with Max as a baby from a super hero family that grows into a super boy...only he can't fly. His parents and grandparents are concerned because Max should be flying. Even his normal friends at school are questioning his inability to fly. Will Max learn to fly in time to save a creature in need?

Cute story with amazingly detailed and action-filled illustrations.

Cherina says

Summary: Max is born into a superhero family. Everyone is worried when it seems that Max lacks the ability to fly. One day, Max sees a baby bird fall from its nest. Max rushes to save the bird and ends up flying in order to rescue the animal. Everyone is happy and Max continues the family tradition of being a superhero.

Uses: independent reading for early readers, recommend to students who have an interest in superheroes

Literary Devices: simile

Social issues: overcoming an inability, achieving a goal, helping others

Other: The book is a fictional picture book. It's just okay.

Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

Didn't hate it, wasn't crazy about it. Suffers from somewhat dated looking illustrations. Basic premise is that this kid, Max, is in a superhero family but isn't flying yet. Family gets concerned and comments on this lack of flight. Max is finally ready to fly at the end of the book and the family is relieved though still not convinced he will be a superhero. There is a point where they acknowledge that he may be a small everyday sort of hero (illustrations of saving small animals). Almost any parent has gone through something like this, maybe your kid didn't talk early, or walk early or really hit any milestone early. My daughter has squeaked through milestones at the last moment pretty consistently. It sort of bugs me in the book that it seems like Max is aware that he is behind. No matter how frustrating it is that my daughter is still struggling with sight words she should know already, I can't really see myself pointing that out to her as a way to make her do better. She'll do better eventually with more practice, not necessarily more pressure. BUT, my 5 year old probably didn't even notice those things in the book. She just liked it. So, you know, it is a kid's book and that's probably the important part, appeal to the target audience not the weird adult outlier.

Chris Calzolaio says

This picture book is about a family of super heroes. The main plot focuses on a baby who seems to be developing faster than his peers, but he still has not learned to fly. His inability to fly has really worried his parents. One day, the baby finally flies when he is faced with the challenge of catching a baby bird that is falling from her nest.

Stacy Natal says

Cute story of a boy born into a superhero family that takes awhile to find his wings.

Mathew says

Set out as part comic/picturebook, this is a lovely story for readers who are just taking-flight (pun intended). Although not outwardly stated, Max is under a lot of pressure to be a superhero like his family before him. He struggles to live up to those expectations but it is the loving and caring (no-pressure) attitude of his immediate family that finally allow him to be the person he wants to be. Lots of nice discussion here with Graham's lovely illustrations. It would make for a good Guided Read or independent read with the illustrations adding as much as the words do.

Baylee Washburn says

The importance of illustrations is made clear in this book as many of the pictures convey significant story events that are not described in the text. Using ink and watercolor, the illustrator of Max compliments the author's text with his illustrations but, also, adds to the story by depicting events that are not specifically described or included in the text. Furthermore, some of the pages of this book begin to resemble a comic strip as multiple scenes are illustrated on each page and, often, show a progression of time and events. Each separate scene is framed by a black line, and the reader must view and follow the "comic strip" of illustrations to fully understand the story and its many events.

Josh Sonii says

This book is about a baby, but it was not a normal baby because it's parents where superheroes. Their names are Captain Lightning and Madam Thunderbolt. The superbaby was named Max and could already walk and talk. This made his parents think that he would fly in no time. His grandparents talked about how he would be a superhero as soon as he learned how to fly. They tried to teach him by throwing him in the air but he still could not fly he just floated back down to the ground. Even when Max grew older he still could not fly, but his parents had faith that he would fly in time. His dad tried to get him to try to fly by inviting him to come up to the ceiling to play with him and a parakeet. Max said no because he wanted to play with the dog. His grandpa began to talk about how he could fly when he was Max's age. When he went to school he was just an ordinary kids with a cape and mask. Kids began to ask him question about his powers and why he was not like his parents. Max did not know what to say when people asked him so he just shrugged. He woke up one morning and saw a bird about to fall form its nest. He ran downstairs so that he could save it from falling and getting injured. As the baby bird fell Max dove to save it and that is how he learned to fly. His family was proud of him and told him to be careful while he was up there. From that day forward Max flew everywhere he even hovered over his chair in class. Now that Max can fly will he be a great superhero or will he just be a ordinary boy that can fly?

This books gives kids a great message, which is that if you do not succeed try and try again. Max can not fly but he keeps trying even though he fails. His powers came in handy during a moment of need. He did not get mad when people asked him questions about his powers. He just shrugged it off and kept doing what he wanted to do. His grandpa was kind of unsupportive because all he did was talk about how he could fly when he was Max's age. I thought it was funny how Max is a superbaby, but he still does everything normal he just learned a few things a little bit quicker. Another thing that I thought was funny was the fact that their house is a giant lightning bolt. Usually superheroes try not to be discovered, but they are just out in the open. I am surprised that they do not have media at their house twenty four seven.

The illustrations in this book are very entertaining. I like how they put a bunch of pictures in separate boxes on certain pages because it reminds me of a comic book. The pictures where very detailed and had small things in the backgrounds like the parents on the cover of the newspaper. They also had a lot of trophies that they probably won for saving peoples life. I liked the very first illustration at the beginning of the book because they are flying next to a plane with their baby in a stroller. I just though it was kind of crazy because Max is just a little baby. That seems like a very dangerous thing to do with your child even if he is a superbaby. Overall this was a great story and teaches kids to never give up.

Hamie says

Read this book for work.

My favorite quote: “(...) a small hero doing quite deeds. The world needs more of those.”

Christine says

Superhero kid Max finally learns to fly when he forgets about himself and focuses on a baby bird in need of rescue. He doesn't "do tough things like [his] mom and dad." His mom says, "Let's call him a small hero, a small hero doing quiet deeds. The world needs more of those." Indeed! Couldn't agree more!

David says

As the son of legendary superheroes Captain Lightning and Madam Thunderbolt, Max is destined to join their ranks - once he learns to

fly, that is. But despite his parents' valiant coaching and encouragement from his grandparents and friends, Max can't seem to get off the ground. Will he ever learn to leap over tall buildings in a single bound?
(Goodreads Summary)

Bob Graham's illustrations in a comic book manner and the use of panels in an easy GN arrangement are great. There are fun little details to notice. I enjoyed the grandparents in the book. Nice story of perseverance and succeeding at one's own pace. For preschoolers and early readers.

Emmaline MacBeath says

Max is a baby born to a superhero family. He walks and talks early, but he cannot yet fly. His family worries over this, but eventually he does what all superhero babies do, and flies.

Although the illustrations are colorful and interesting, I found the layout to be very cluttered for a book written for very young children. I had to work hard to keep track of where my eyes should go next. The story was also too long and detailed in some parts. I think if the book had a more simple layout and story line I would have liked it much better.

Children will like the story concept of a super hero baby born to a super hero family, just like the baby in the movie Incredibles.
