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**Freedom Rings: An American Parable**

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**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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The city of Merka, located in the Ameron Valley, or “Goodlands,” had been long guarded by the dragon named Freedom, who always managed to keep the citizens content and safe from harm. However, the town council of Merka, having too long lived under the peace which Freedom provided, decides that Freedom is a nuisance and votes to keep him away. Evil tyrants and kings are quick to plot the siege of Merka, now without Freedom’s protection, and execute their plan. They trap Freedom in his cave, and it is Gilly who rallies the town’s citizens to fight for Freedom, who ultimately defeats the tyrants. Only after the incident do the citizens fully come to appreciate Freedom.

*Freedom Rings* is truly an American parable in that it emphasizes the role of freedom in the preservation of our safety, happiness, and success. The plot as well as the symbolism embodied by the guardian dragon of freedom offer an excellent way for young children to be exposed to and come to understand and appreciate the crucial role of freedom in our lives. The characters, particularly Gilly, exemplify other morals as well, including friendship, trust, responsibility and initiative, and the importance of speaking out against the majority for something that is right. Aside from the extended metaphor representing the ideals of America, the book has well-defined characters, most notably the dragon Freedom and Gilly. Although the plot is very traditional, the narration is friendly and fresh, which would make the story enjoyable for young readers. The illustrations are also very cute and complement the story very well.