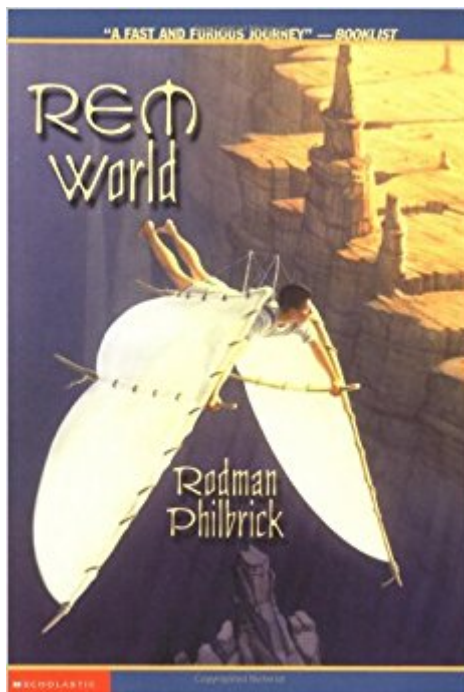


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# Rem World



## Synopsis

Award-winning novelist Rodman Philbrick challenges the boundaries of time and place in this exciting fantasy. "Harry Potter fans will recognize the misfit hero in a strange, new world." - Booklist

Arthur Woodbury is tired of being called fat. So he's purchased a special product that's supposed to help him lose weight. But when he puts on the helmet like the instructions say, his world vanishes before his very eyes. Now he is trapped in REM World, a place where nothing is as it seems. And it's not enough just to find his way home. By entering REM World, Arthur accidentally released a terrible creature into the real world. It's Nothing, and it's going to eat away everything in the world until all that remains is itself. Arthur's never been the heroic kind - but now it's up to him to save the world.

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Blue Sky Press; Reprint edition (March 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 043908363X

ISBN-13: 978-0439083638

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 5.4 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,449,096 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight](#) #27257 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#) #35821 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

## Customer Reviews

An 11-year-old orders a weight-loss device, but because he fails to follow the directions, he unleashes a force that could destroy the universe. Imaginative characters and a string of cliffhangers make this science-fiction novel a fun and fast-paced read, said PW. Ages 9-14.

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Grade 3-6-This fantasy may appeal to a young audience unfamiliar with the genre, but it leaves much to be desired. Arthur Woodbury, 10, has had enough of fat jokes, so when he sees an ad for a

sleep device that guarantees weight loss, he wastes no time. However, he fails to read the instructions completely, and the magic helmet deposits him in REM World, creating a conundrum that violates the laws of the universe. Arthur must get home, or the creeping Nothing will envelop Everything and the universe will cease to exist. In action-packed, cliff-hanging chapters, Arthur is helped by REM World beings ("Morf," "Grog," "Mr. Pockets") and earns himself a new name, Arthur Courage. The plot wanders from one surprising encounter to the next, with only a cursory mythology to explain Nothing and Everything, and an underdeveloped setting, so that REM World never quite feels like an actual place. Arthur is miraculously thin when he returns home, but the explanation that he's been unusually active over the course of a few days doesn't suffice. In fact, the issue of Arthur's body shape drops out of the picture while he's in REM World (it's the "courage" issue that surfaces there), so this framing device for the story seems hollow. It also is conspicuously reminiscent of Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Knopf, 1961), in which this device is carried through and developed. Despite the thinness in plot, REM may hold appeal for some reluctant readers; Philbrick's narrative voice is exciting and pulls the right strings. Nina Lindsay, Oakland Public Library, CA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Make no mistake, I like strange books and fantasy, but REM WORLD had one of the most peculiar storylines I've ever heard. It is about a boy named Arthur (or "Biscuit Butt" as the kids at school have dubbed him) who sees an ad in the back of a comic book for a helmet that, when you fall asleep with it on, makes you thin. Naturally Arthur orders it, and falls asleep in his basement with it on. He wakes up in a different world still wearing the helmet. He takes the helmet off, and when it disappears, Arthur's adventures start, because without the helmet he needs a new way to return home. Galump, the leader of these giant toadlike creatures who live in REM world, alerts Arthur to another problem: Arthur is still REALLY asleep in his basement in OUR world, and because the Arthur in REM world got rid of the Helmet, there are now two Arthurs in two different worlds, which causes Nothing to come. The Nothing is sort of like a blackness that just eats away at the universe, destroying everything. Of course, it's up to Arthur to find a way home so he can get rid of the Nothing. Arthur has quite a journey and meets up with many strange characters, like Morf, who was dry and cardboardish but still rather amusing, and the Cloud People. The story had an extremely rushed and fast pace, with short chapters. All the action happened quickly; never did it slow down and dwell for long on anything. Although many chapters ended in cliffhangers, I did not feel much suspense. REM World was a quick read for me, and although it wasn't GREAT, I still enjoyed it.

REM WORLD is a fascinating book that will spark the imagination of those who read it. After many years of being called nicknames such as Biscuit Butt, Goodyear Blimp, and Jelly Belly, Arthur Woodbury decides that he is to be fat no more. He buys a losing weight device that guarantees that you will go to sleep fat, and wake up thin. But when Arthur wakes up, he finds himself in a fantasy world full of creatures he has never seen before. When Arthur finds out that he has let out the Nothing, which will destroy everything in the universe, he must find a way back home and save the universe. With the help of his guide Morf, Arthur faces many challenges throughout his journey. Will Arthur save the universe from the Nothing? Find out by reading this great book that I recommend for all ages.

I borrowed REM World from the library, to use for a summer reading book report. I started reading it, and I couldn't stop! It was very imaginative, and unlike any book I have read before. The characters are funny, and the writing is very descriptive and makes you feel like you are in REM world with Arthur. I definitely would recommend this book to young readers.

I loved this book. Arthur enters the magical REM world. This science fiction novel has great characters ranging from Cloud People to Morf. It definitely ranks with Philbrick's Freak the Mighty in my book.

I think this book is a brilliant piece of work with a lot of fun parts. The author writes about what we can relate to, and what we like to read about in a book. This book is a very interesting fantasy. In this book a boy named Arthur Woodbury finds in a magazine an ad where we can go to sleep fat, and wake up thin. So he bought the device and he put it on, and he went to sleep. Then he woke up and he wasn't thin. He took the device and threw it at the floor and he said what a waste. He walked out of his room, and he was in a beach. He looks back and there is no door. Then he meets a creature called morph who is his guide. Arthur does not have his helmet on, so he does not have a way to go back home. So he goes on a journey to find a way home. I give this book two thumbs up.

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