

**Maniac Magee**

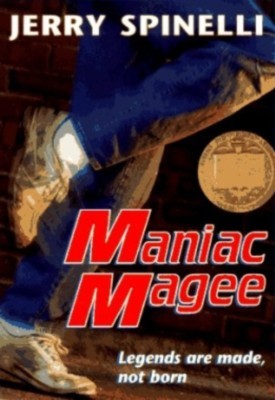
By

Jerry Spinelli

## A Novel Study by Nat Reed

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*



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**About the author:** Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine of these years. He is also the author of the novel for Young Readers, ***Mystery at Red Marsh Lake*** (Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2019), available on amazon.com. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites [www.reedpublications.org](http://www.reedpublications.org/) and [www.novelstudies.org](http://www.novelstudies.org/).

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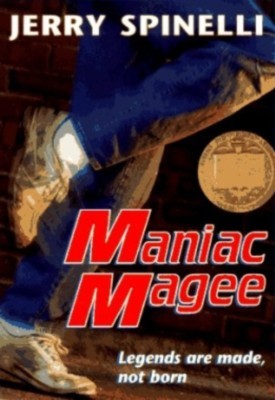
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# Maniac Magee

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**Suggestions and Expectations**

This 69 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on three or four chapters of ***Maniac Magee*** and is comprised of four different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

**→** A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

##### → Every activity need not be completed by all students.

**Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)**

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

1. determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
2. explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
3. compare and contrast two characters;
4. determine how characters … respond to challenges;
5. drawing inferences from the text;
6. determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include **racial prejudice**, establishing one’s **identity**, **homes**, **homelessness**.

Additional icons provided by [http://www.iconka.com](http://www.iconka.com/)

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**List of Skills**

###### Vocabulary Development

* 1. Locating descriptive words / phrases 8. Use of singular / plural nouns
  2. Listing synonyms/homophones 9. Listing compound words

3. Identifying / creating *alliteration* 10. Identifying parts of speech

1. Use of capitals and punctuation 11. Determining alphabetical order
2. Identifying syllables 12. Identification of root words
3. Identify *foreshadowing*. 13. Identify/create *similes*
4. Identify *personification*. 14. Identify/create *exaggeration*

###### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

###### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events 3. Identify the climax of the novel.

2. Identify conflict in the story 4. Predict events

###### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits 3. Relating personal experiences
2. Characteristics of protagonist 4. Compare two characters

###### Creative and Critical Thinking

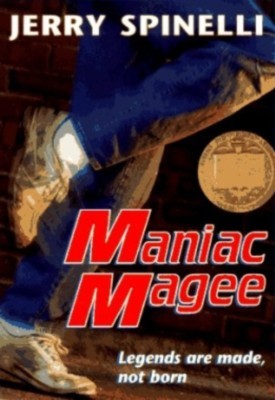
1. Research 5. Conduct an interview / Talk Show
2. Write a newspaper story 6. Write about personal feelings
3. Write a letter to a friend 7. Write a book review
4. Complete an Observation Sheet 8. KWS Chart

###### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard 3. Design a cover for the novel
2. Create a collage

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*



##### Synopsis

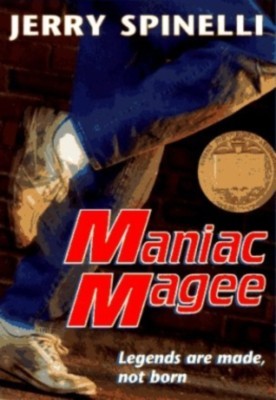
Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a trolley accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run - and not just run away, but run. And this is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats. [Courtesy of the publisher]



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author Biography**  *Jerry Spinelli* | | |  |
| Born in 1941 in Norristown, Pennsylvania, Jerry Spinelli discovered his calling in 1957 when his high school football team won a big game. The town celebrated, his fellow students raced through the streets, but Jerry sneaked back home and marked the occasion in his own way. He wrote a poem. Later the town newspaper published it. "And," he reports, "I've been a writer ever since."  Married to Eileen Spinelli, who is also a writer, Jerry was for many years an editor for the Chilton Company. Now a full-time writer, he lives in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.  Jerry Spinelli's immensely popular books include ***Space*** |  |  |
| ***Station Seventh Grade***, J***ason and Marceline, Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?***, and ***Maniac Magee***, which has won more than fifteen state children's book awards in addition to the Newbery Medal. [The Publisher] | | |

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

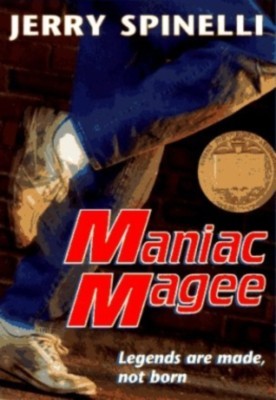


##### Student Checklist

Student Name:

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| Assignment | Grade / Level | Comments |
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**Maniac Magee**



*By Jerry Spinelli*

Name:

**Maniac Magee**

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 1 - 4**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of ***Maniac Magee*** is a most unusual character living a very different kind of life than most boys his age. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read. What do you think makes for an especially intriguing protagonist?

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**Vocabulary:**

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| trestle | musicale | risers | pastel |
| suspicious | obvious | deserted | grungy |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Everyone was surprised to find the city after a famine swept through the area. |  |
| 2 | When the engineers examined the railway they found it had been badly corroded by the elements. |  |
| 3 | “I thought it was that no one would be able to score a goal on Lundquist,” the reporter stated. |  |
| 4 | It’s surprising that no more than a few people were  of John Wilkes Booth’s intentions. |  |
| 5 | I can’t believe that someone could get so after spending only an hour in a sandbox. |  |
| 6 | The drama department of our local high school is going to put on a this spring. |  |
| 7 | My aunt wore a dress to the ceremony. |  |
| 8 | The choir director made all the shorter children stand on the behind the first row of singers. |  |

#### Questions

1. Chapter One describes several very unusual events in the life of Jeffrey Magee. Describe any two of these events.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |

1. Describe the **setting** of the story for Chapter Three.

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3. How old was Jeffrey at the end of Chapter One? How old was he in Chapter Two?

4. Math in Action. It took Jeffrey a whole year to travel the two hundred miles from Hollidaysburg to Two Mills. The average walking speed for someone Jeffrey’s age is about three miles/hour, less the time he would spend resting. About how many hours would it take Jeffrey to walk 200 miles at this rate? (Do not include his resting time)

1. No one knows why it took Jeffrey so long to walk this relatively short distance. Use your imagination and suggest a couple of creative possibilities.

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1. Why did Amanda find it especially unusual to find Jeffrey on her street that morning?

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1. Why was Amanda hauling all her books to school in a suitcase?

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1. Why do you think she finally relented and loaned Jeffrey one of her books?

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1. Jeffrey made quite a spectacular appearance at the varsity team’s football practice. Describe his remarkable performance.

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10. **Foreshadowing** is a literary device defined *as a hint or clue provided by the writer to tip the reader as to what is to come later in the story*. If the following example is an example of foreshadowing, what is the author hinting at in terms of Jeffrey’s future in Two Mills: *If you listen to everybody who claims to have seen Jeffrey-Maniac Magee that first day, there must have been ten thousand people and a parade of fire trucks waiting for him at the town limits.*

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#### Language Activities

1. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Two is “. . . the soles of both sneakers hanging by their hinges and flopping open like dog tongues . . .”

What two things are being compared in this example?

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your imagination:

* 1. the sound of a banjo
  2. the sizzle of frying bacon on a grill

**Bonus**: Find another example of a ***simile*** in Chapter Three.

1. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **nouns**.

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#### Extension Activities

**Storyboard**

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first four chapters of ***Maniac Magee***. You may type the scene with quotations as to what you are referring to.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 |

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

##### Chapters 5 - 8

 **Before you read the chapters**:

In the coming chapters we meet a person who enjoys bullying other kids. The singer, Taylor Swift, once said, *“If you're horrible to me, I'm going to write a song about it, and you won't like it. That's how I operate.”* Do you think Taylor’s actions are an example of being a bully? Defend your response.

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**Vocabulary:**

Many of the words in this Crossword Puzzle are from Chapters 1 - 8. Use the words in the box to complete the puzzle.

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|  |  | 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 8 |  |
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| 12 |  |  | 13 |  | 14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 16 | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 18 |  |  |  | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20 |
| 21 |  | 22 |  | 23 |  |  |  | 24 |  | 25 |  | 26 |  |  | 27 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 28 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 29 |  |  |  |
| 30 | 31 |  |  | 32 | 33 |  | 34 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 36 |  |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 38 | 39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 |  | 41 |  |  |
|  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 43 |  |  |  |
| 44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45 |  |  |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |
|  |  |  | 47 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 48 |  |  |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Down** | **Across** |
| 1. Jeffrey’s surname. 2. Bits of thread; cotton waste.   3 Toronto’s pro soccer team*.*   1. An opening of the nose. 2. A university in Peterborough, Canada.   6 Decay.   1. Far north. 2. Found in a sink. 3. A goal to be reached. 4. To shock or astound. 5. Resembling lace.   17. First woman.   1. I; myself. 2. Awareness. 3. Alien spacecraft. 4. A break or opening. 5. Mature; full . 6. Loud sound; din. 7. *Decibel*. 8. Not *off*. 9. Name of a girl who lives in the East End*.*   31. Part of McNab’s windup when pitching.   1. Receives*.* 2. Leave. 3. The star quarterback.   39. Light brown color*.*  41. Basketball star, Shaquille .  45. A homonym of *ewe.* | 3. 803 Oriole St.   1. Lunatic. 2. Moving up. 3. Curved nail on animal’s foot. 4. A frame – often made of planks. 5. Extraterrestrial. 6. Stress.   18. Assert one’s right to.  21 Messy; dirty.  24. Story; fable.  27. A small, round mark.   1. *Alberta*. 2. One more than one.   32. Noisy confusion.   1. “So be it”. 2. Cut off from an intended destination. 3. Indicates a former name.   40. Name of God.   1. An authority. 2. An article used before a word beginning with a vowel. 3. Not low. 4. Not old. 5. Short for *even* in a poem. 6. Word of agreement. 7. Sick. 8. Bridgeport is located on this river. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LACY | NOSTRIL | CLAIM | GAP | DENEHY | ME |
| DEPART | LEGEND | GRUNGY | ECRU | EEN | PANDEMONIUM |
| ARCTIC | ADONI | CLAW | WINDMILL | ON | AMANDA |
| STUN | DOT | EVE | HIGH | ATTENTION | AN |
| DRAIN | TWO | FC | TRESTLE | NOISE | AB |
| DB | ASCENT | YOU | TENSION | LINT | FINSTERWALD |
| TARGET | SCHUYLKILL | ET | UFO | YES | INTERCEPT |
| ILL | ACCEPTS | YOUNG | TRENT | MANIAC | EXPERT |
| ONEAL | MAGEE | GROWN | ROT | AMEN | NEE |

#### Questions

1. Wikipedia defines an **urban legend** as *a form of modern* [*folklore*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore) *consisting of stories that may or may not have been believed by their tellers to be true.* What might qualify as an urban legend in these chapters?

1. What was one cardinal rule of survival in the West End?
2. How did Jeffrey accidentally make things worse for Arnold?
3. How was Jeffrey able to eat a meal with the Pickwells?
4. Write a **synopsis** of Jeffrey’s “run-in” with John McNab.

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1. Jeffrey knocked the world’s first for a -bagger.
2. Why do you think Amanda never called Jeffrey by his nickname, “Maniac”?

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#### Language Activities

1. **Alliteration**

The author seems to enjoy using **alliteration –** a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. An example from Chapter Five is “**P**lease! He **p**leads. **P**leeeeeeeeeeeeese!”

Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The howl of a timber wolf |  |
|  |
| A loud belch. |  |
|  |
| From your imagination |  |
|  |

1. Choose ten words from these chapters with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example**: **good / bye**.

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1. The word “**type**” can be used as a **noun** or a **verb**, depending on the

sentence. Use your imagination and write sentences to illustrate how this word can be used as both a noun and a verb.

###### TYPE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Noun |  |
| Verb |  |

1. **Interview** at least three other students for their views of this novel. (Try to get both positive and negative comments.) Write a brief **report** putting these views together.

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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 9 - 12**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Every good story usually needs an interesting **antagonist** ("bad guy"). By the end of the coming chapters we actually meet two characters who *fill the bill* in this regard. Think about some other books you have read which have featured an antagonist that you have really disliked. What characteristics do you think makes for an effective antagonist?

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**Vocabulary:**

In each of the following sets of words, underline the one word that does not belong. Then write a sentence explaining why it does not fit.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | instincts | feeling | alleviating | intuition |
|  | | | | |
| 2 | convention | assembly | conference | capstone |
|  | | | | |
| 3 | boundary | bassinet | border | brink |
|  | | | | |
| 4 | frail | befuddle | confuse | addle |
|  | | | | |
| 5 | linger | forage | loiter | dawdle |
|  | | | | |
| 6 | appraise | cringe | flinch | recoil |
|  | | | | |
| 7 | solemn | grave | serious | calamity |
|  | | | | |

##### Cloze Call

**Questions**

Complete the following exercise filling in the correct words from the **Word Box**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| wing | fishbelly | vacant | Beale | sauerkraut | Amanda |
| black | Lester | deer | lady | Cobras | address |
| victim | Sycamore | striking | pet | book | rail |
| spaghetti | East | tire | Oriole |  |  |

John McNab felt that beating up a kid was the same as him out.

McNab and his friends were known as the . McNab and his friends were astonished to find Jeffrey running on a . Jeffrey decided not to stop at the Pickwell house where he had eaten when escaping from McNab. McNab and the others stopped chasing him when he reached Street.

When he reached the End, Jeffrey began looking for Street where lived. Mars Bar Thompson took the from Jeffrey and called him . Jeffrey was rescued by a in her prime. Later Jeffrey met Thompson again when he was passing a lot. A torn page to Amanda was like a out in the rain or the broken

of a bird. When Amanda took Jeffrey to her house, his meeting with Mrs. was interrupted by a crash. They raced into the kitchen to discover that a jar of had been broken by Hester and . Amanda’s father worked at a factory. Amanda’s brother and sister regarded Jeffrey as a new buddy and . When Amanda’s dad drove Jeffrey home, Jeffrey made the mistake of saying that he lived on a street populated with

people. It turned out that Jeffrey’s only home was a shed at the zoo. Before going to bed, Jeffrey checked the numbers on Amanda’s house.

Maniac Magee finally had an .

#### Language Activities

1. Place the following words from these chapters in **alphabetical order**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| stuck | 1. |
| steel | 2. |
| streets | 3. |
| stinging | 4. |
| stop | 5. |
| runt | 6. |
| Saturday | 7. |
| someplace | 8. |
| sports | 9. |
| spaghetti | 10. |

#### Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

Jeffrey reads the book ***Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*** (by Bernard Waber) to Hester and Lester before they go to sleep that night. This popular picture book is found in many school and public libraries. Some local libraries will even allow access to this book online. Locate a copy of the book and write a brief **synopsis** of the story’s plot.

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1. Rewrite the following sentences putting in the **correct capitalization** and

###### punctuation.

hester and lester lived on sycamore street in the town of two mills

we went to see the boston celtics play at madison square gardens

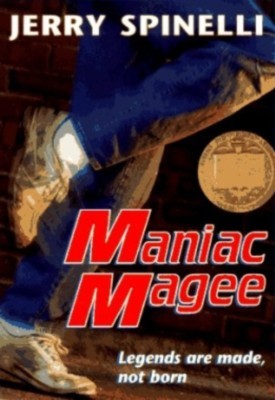
how many students attend king george public school

1. A number of fascinating characters have already appeared in the novel. Choose three characters from the novel, then for each person record three adjectives which would accurately describe him/her. Consider both appearance and personality.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Trait 1** | **Trait 2** | **Trait 3** |
|  |  |  |  |
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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*



**Chapters 13 - 16**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Describe how you would be feeling if you were Maniac at this point in the story.

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**Vocabulary:**

Beside each word in Column A write the correct synonym or definition from Column B.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **COLUMN A** | **CORRECT MEANING** |  | **COLUMN B** |
| 1. | hemisphere |  | a. | a wonder; marvel |
| 2. | allergic |  | b. | come together |
| 3. | miracle |  | c. | empty |
| 4. | solitude |  | d. | medieval weapon |
| 5. | converge |  | e. | half of the earth |
| 6. | squint |  | f. | being alone |
| 7. | vacant |  | g. | to look with eyes partly closed |
| 8. | poleax |  | h. | hypersensitive |

#### Questions

Indicate whether the following statements are ***True*** or ***False***.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Although the Beales were glad to have Jeffrey live with them, they found he wasn’t much help around the house. | True or False |
| 2. Maniac slept on the floor because he couldn’t stand being too comfortable. | True or False |
| 3. With Maniac around, Hester and Lester soon lost interest in coloring everything in sight. | True or False |
| 4. Amanda developed a peculiar allergy to eating pizza. | True or False |
| 5. Jeffrey loved going to church with the Beales as well as the Fourth of July block party. | True or False |
| 6. Jeffrey couldn’t figure out why the East Enders called themselves black. | True or False |
| 7. Legend has it that the first time Maniac played football with Hands Down he scored 48 TDs. | True or False |
| 8. Jeffrey was afraid of losing his name because it was the only thing he had left from his mother and father. | True or False |
| 9. Mr. Beale put a quick stop to Jeffrey’s trash talking. | True or False |
| 10. Jeffrey was so loveable that everyone he met liked him. | True or False |

#### Your Thoughts

**Foreshadowing** is a literary device in which the author provides a hint as to what might happen later in the story. An example of this is found at the end of Chapter 15: *But everything did not love him back.* Why do you suppose this is an effective literary device?

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#### Language Activities

1. Write the plural of the following nouns from these chapters. Careful – you may wish to consult a dictionary for some of these words.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Singular Noun** | **Plural Noun** |
| dish |  |
| person |  |
| family |  |
| foot |  |
| pass |  |
| church |  |
| football |  |
| life |  |
| mattress |  |
| dinosaur |  |

#### Investigate

Mars Bar Thompson certainly has an interesting nickname. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet investigate the **Mars Bar** from which Mr. Thompson got his nickname. Research three facts about this famous candy bar to share with your friends.

|  |  |
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| 3 |  |
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#### Talk Show

With two or three other students prepare to participate in a television talk show featuring characters from these chapters. Choose an interesting character from the book (it doesn’t necessarily have to be Maniac). Prepare about a half-dozen questions and possible answers.

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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 17 - 21**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Predict what difficulties might result from Jeffrey living in the East End.

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**Vocabulary:**

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| distraction | foresight | hibernation | regret | incubate |
| contort | publicize | testimony | terrorize | opponent |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Do you think that her **statement** contained nothing but the truth? |  |
| 2 | Jenna found the little boy’s unexpected tantrum at the concert to be an unfortunate **diversion**. |  |
| 3 | The grizzly decided to begin his **sleep** earlier that year. |  |
| 4 | Mrs. Brewster decided she would **hatch** a number of chicken eggs in her classroom. |  |
| 5 | Her little brother had to **twist** himself into an almost impossible shape to reach the bottom of the well. |  |
| 6 | Prince John proved to be a worthy **foe** for Robin Hood and his Merry Men. |  |
| 7 | Sally experienced a great deal of **remorse** over her harsh words to her mother. |  |
| 8 | If our recording company doesn’t **promote** our new album it will not do well on the charts. |  |
| 9 | “Do you think your words can **intimidate** me?” the police officer asked. |  |
| 10 | He had enough acute **perception** to approach the wild stallion with caution. |  |

#### Questions

* 1. **Exaggeration** is a literary device often used by authors to spice up the narrative. An example from Chapter 17 is: *So hot, the dogs were tripping on their own tongues*. Think of an exaggerated way of describing an extremely wet day.

1. Why do you think Old Ragpicker’s words, “Our own kind” affected Jeffrey so deeply?

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1. Who do you think put the graffiti on the wall of the Beale house? Why?

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1. When Jeffrey told Amanda he would get a library card, why was her response so hurtful to him?
2. When Jeffrey tackled Cobble’s Knot only a few people came to watch including

Angels.

1. When Jeffrey finally untangled Cobble’s Knot a deflated football

was found at its core. T or F

7. Describe what happened to Amanda’s encyclopedia, *Volume A*? What effect did this have on Jeffrey?

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#### Mr. Bojangles

**Language Activities**

Jeffrey experiences his first taste of racial prejudice in this section when he encounters the taunts of Old Ragpicker. One of the rants made by the upset man is, ***Come on down to see Bojangles***.



The name *Mr. Bojangles* was made famous in the lyrics of a song by Jerry Jeff Walker in 1968, about a down-and-out tap dancer.

The most famous Mr. Bojangles, however, was Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, a famous African-American dancer of the 1930’s who appeared in several Shirley Temple movies Using resources in your school library or on the Internet research three interesting facts about this fascinating man. Why do you think Old Ragpicker used his name in such a mean way to Jeffrey?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fact 1 |  |
|  |
| Fact 2 |  |
|  |
| Fact 3 |  |
|  |
| Why was Old Ragpicker mean to Jeffrey? | |
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1. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **verbs**.

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1. **Personification** is giving human qualities to something that is not human. An

example from Chapter 17: *It was a strange voice, deep and thick and sort of clotted, as though it had to fight its way through a can of worms before coming out.* In this example, **voice** is personified – as ***fight*** is an attribute usually given to a person.

1. Why do you think **personification** is a literary device used by many authors?
2. Create your own example of personification.
3. Bonus: There is at least one additional example of personification in Chapter 19. Can you find it?
4. A **quintet** is a five-line verse that tells a story. The quintet has a syllable pattern and can bring an exciting scene to life. (It doesn't have to rhyme.)

Line 1 – tells **when**. 3 syllables Line 2 – tells **where**, 5 syllables Line 3 – tells **what**, 7 syllables

Line 4 – describes **activity**, 9 syllables Line 5 – contains a **thought**, 3 syllables.

Now create a quintet poem using ideas from recent events in ***Maniac Magee.***

TITLE:

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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 22 - 24**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Why might Jeffrey find it difficult if he decides to return to the deer pen at the local zoo?

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**Vocabulary:**

Solve the following word search puzzle using the words from the **Word Box**. Remember

– the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forward or even backward!

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COMPLIMENT | HOIST | CONFIRM | RECOGNITION | ABSOLUTELY |
| ABRUPT | CEASE | TEMPT | BUTTERSCOTCH | DIGEST |
| NOTION | REALIZE | MEATLOAF | DUMBFOUND | IMPATIENT |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Q | W | D | E | H | O | I | S | T | N | O | I | T | O | N |
| S | B | A | U | N | P | O | I | U | E | Y | T | T | R | T |
| D | F | U | I | M | O | D | F | G | H | M | J | K | L | N |
| Y | P | O | T | M | B | I | N | B | V | C | P | X | Z | E |
| T | L | L | K | T | J | F | T | H | G | F | D | T | R | M |
| N | C | E | A | S | E | H | O | I | L | K | J | H | E | I |
| E | O | D | T | G | H | R | V | U | N | G | T | Y | A | L |
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| P | R | S | F | G | H | J | S | M | N | T | B | V | E | C |
| M | M | T | U | T | P | U | R | B | A | T | C | C | X | R |
| I | P | O | I | F | A | O | L | T | A | E | M | H | D | F |

#### Questions

* 1. As this section begins, where do we discover Jeffrey is spending his nights?
  2. Why do you think the old man didn’t take Jeffrey straight to the hospital when he first found him?
  3. Mr. Grayson took Jeffrey to the Equipment Room in the band shell. T or F

Mr. Grayson brings Jeffrey a **zep**. A standard zep contains only cooked salami and provolone as the meat and cheese, and includes no lettuce.

* 1. What special food did Jeffrey ask Mr. Grayson for?
  2. Jeffrey ended up staying at the buffalo pen because he thought it was the

pen.

* 1. Where did Mr. Grayson live? Why do you think he lived there?

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* 1. What did Jeffrey threaten to do if Mr. Grayson made him go to school?

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8. Charoltte Bronte wrote: *Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education*: How was Jeffrey able to provide some of this education to Mr. Grayson?

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9. When Mr. Grayson was a kid he wanted to be a

when he grew up.

#### Language Activities

1. Beside each of the following words from these chapters, write its **root word.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| smaller |  | nodding |  |
| smelling |  | mopped |  |
| nuzzling |  | sitting |  |
| especially |  | comfortable |  |

**Check out the author's website**

<http://www.jerryspinelli.com/newbery_002.htm>

#### A Letter Home

It has now been some time since Jeffrey last saw Amanda or any of her family. Imagine you are Jeffrey and write a letter to Amanda letting her know something of your experiences since she last saw you. Use your imagination to describe what has happened in your life during the past few weeks, mentioning some of the more memorable characters you have met. Your letter should be at least a half-page in length and follow the proper format of a friendly letter.

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#### Observation Chart

***Maniac Magee*** is a novel filled with sights and sounds. Look back over the novel and get as many examples of the five senses, then list them in the chart below with a brief description about where each was found. You may wish to choose your examples from one particular scene, or include a number of different scenes.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sight** | **Sound** | **Touch** | **Taste** | **Smell** |
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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 25 - 28**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

In the coming chapters we learn that Grayson believes himself to be a huge failure in life because of one traumatic event in his past. How do you think it might be possible for someone in Grayson’s situation to overcome such feelings of failure and learn to accept him or herself?

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**Vocabulary:**

Write a **sentence** using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| frayed |  |
|  |
| robust |  |
|  |
| immortality |  |
|  |
| bulldogged |  |
|  |
| preposterous |  |
|  |
| repertoire |  |
|  |
| flaunting |  |
|  |
| orneriest |  |
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#### Questions

* 1. Describe the practical joke that the gas station attendant played on Grayson at the Blue Star.

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* 1. Why do you think Grayson enjoyed having Jeffrey along with him while he worked?

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1. The **Toledo Mud Hens** feature prominently in Grayson’s stories. The following former major league stars once played for this Minor League team: Jim Thorpe Kirby Puckett, Frank Viola, Travis Fryman, Tony Clark, Bobby Higginson, Justin Thompson, Kirk Gibson, and Curtis Granderson.

T or F

1. Describe what happened when Grayson was scouted at class AAA***.***

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1. Describe your feelings when you read the sentence: *He was forty, out of baseball, and, for all intents and purposes, out of life.*

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1. What was so unusual about Grayson’s ***stopball***?

7. How did Jeffrey accumulate a library of his own?

8. Jeffrey bought a number of picture books to assist him in teaching Grayson to read. Think of a picture book that you would choose for such a task.

9. Why do you think being successful at learning to read was such a huge deal for Grayson?

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#### Language Activities

1. Find three examples of the following parts of speech from these chapters.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nouns** | **Verbs** | **Adjectives** |
|  |  |  |

#### Baseball Cards

In addition to being one of the first African-Americans to break into the Major Leagues, Willie Mays was a star baseball player for many years. Of course one of the great bonuses to playing in the Major Leagues is being featured on a baseball card.

Although Earl Grayson is a fictional character and never actually got to play even in the Minors, imagine that he did make it to the Majors and was featured on his own baseball card. Design a card for Grayson. The front should feature a colored picture of him in his prime (use your imagination), and the back should include at least four interesting facts about him (i.e. stats, vital statistics; baseball stats, brief biography).

#### Homophones

This chapter includes a number of examples of words that have homophones – **right** – **write** and **cents** – **sense** are just two examples. Two words are ***homophones*** if they are pronounced or spelled the same way but have different meanings.

Think of two more examples of homophones and use each in a sentence showing the meaning of each word quite clearly.

###### Example 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Homophones | Sentence |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |

**Example 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Homophones | Sentence |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |

**Maniac Magee**

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 29 - 32**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

In the past few chapters Grayson is able to help Jeffrey refine his baseball skills. Predict what you think will happen in the story as a result of this. (Return to this question later in the story and seen how close you were to what really happened.)

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#### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| traditional | thronged | privileged | facilities | dispersed |
| languished | venture | stoic | mourner | reunion |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | The **building** where the hockey team played was in need of repair. |  |
| 2 | To everyone who knew him, Karl appeared to be  **disinterested** in everything going on around him. |  |
| 3 | Our family’s way of looking at things was very **common**  among the general population. |  |
| 4 | The children really enjoyed the neighborhood **get- together**. |  |
| 5 | I was most **fortunate** to have two close friends in that classroom. |  |
| 6 | Her veil and dark clothing revealed my grandmother as a  **bereaved person**. |  |
| 7 | The farmer **distributed** the land among his children. |  |
| 8 | The priest’s health **deteriorated** when he was in prison. |  |
| 9 | Do you think she will **dare** to make another attempt at crossing the river. |  |
| 10 | The students **gathered** at the gates of the rich man’s estate to express their outrage. |  |

#### Questions

1 The first paragraph of Chapter 29 offers a great example of a literary device discussed earlier in this novel study. What literary device can be found here?

1. Grayson really enjoyed listening to music.
2. What did Jeffrey paint on the outside of the Band Shell? Why do you think this was so important to him?

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1. After decorating the inside of the Band Shell for Christmas, what did Grayson and Jeffrey then decide to decorate?
2. For Christmas Jeffrey gave Grayson a woolen and a book entitled

. Grayson gave Jeffrey a

and his old .

1. Describe how you felt when you read the last sentence in Chapter 31.

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1. Who were the only people who attended Grayson’s funeral?
2. Do you think Jeffrey did the right thing by running off at the end of Chapter 32? Defend your answer.

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#### Language Activities

1. Try to reassemble the word parts listed below into ten compound words found in these chapters of ***Maniac Magee***.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| light | diggers | base | scotch | ward |
| green | break | ever | up | match |
| moon | butter | grave | ball | Thanks |
| side | out | giving | fast | box |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |

4. 9.

5. 10.

#### The Five W’s Chart

Choose a major event from the novel and then complete the following chart with the important details.

|  |
| --- |
| **What happened?** |
| **Who was there?** |
| **Why did it happen?** |
| **When did it happen?** |
| **Where did it happen?** |

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 33 - 36**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Chapter 32 concludes Part II of the novel. Why do you think the author divided Chapters 22 – 32 into a distinct **Part**?

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**Vocabulary:**

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| nonperishable | endure | desolation | beseech |
| replica | retaliate | lambaste | abundance |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | “I you with all my heart,” the old woman begged. “Please do not turn me out from my home.” |  |
| 2 | The soldiers were forced to tremendous hardships during the war. |  |
| 3 | The charity was asking that food items be dropped off at the Salvation Army headquarters. |  |
| 4 | I certainly did not expect our physical education teacher to  poor Charlie as harshly as he did. |  |
| 5 | Roaches were found in throughout the old house. |  |
| 6 | Our coach warned us not to if the other team started to play dirty. |  |
| 7 | My grandmother was shattered to discover that her cherished broach was only a of one created by a famed artisan. |  |
| 8 | We were astonished at the total of the once-proud city. |  |

#### Questions

Indicate whether the following statements are ***True*** or ***False***.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Before leaving the Band Shell for good Jeffrey brushed over the numbers he had painted on the door. | True or False |
| 2. The only buildings at the Valley Forge site were made of log and mortar. | True or False |
| 3. At Valley Forge Jeffrey was so discouraged he just wanted to die. | True or False |
| 4. Screecher and Missing Tooth informed Jeffrey that they had stolen the bag of goodies from an old lady in the park. | True or False |
| 5. Jeffrey enticed Russell and Piper to leave Valley Forge by telling them that they had won a free pizza. | True or False |
| 6. Russell and Piper informed Jeffrey that they were running away to Canada. | True or False |
| 7. Jeffrey made Big John feel better by telling Russell and Piper that John had struck him out using the stopball. | True or False |
| 8. Mr. McNab was constantly frustrated by how messy his house was. | True or False |
| 9. The Beale house was infested with roaches. | True or False |
| 10. In order to get Piper and Russell to continue attending school Jeffrey agreed to knock on the door of the Finsterwalds’ house. | True or False |



#### Valley Forge

**Language Activities**

Jeffrey spends some time at one of America’s most famous historical sites – **Valley Forge**, the military encampment of George Washington and the Continental Army. Using resources found in your school library or on the Internet, investigate this important site and report on three important facts relating to it.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. |  |
|  |
| 2. |  |
|  |
| 3. |  |
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#### A News Report

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter at the time and place of ***Maniac Magee***. You are asked by your editor to write a short summary of the adventures described in this classic novel for your interested readers.

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#### The Story Pyramid

The story pyramid gives the creator an opportunity to summarize points in a story using only a certain number of words. By limiting your options in this way, it will give you the opportunity to stretch your thinking because of the small number of words required at each level of the pyramid. It is also a great opportunity to gather the most important information when writing a summary.

##### Write a story pyramid following these instructions.

Line 1: One word, stating the name of the main character (Jeffrey) Line 2: Two words, describing this character

Line 3: Three words, describing the setting for most of the story Line 4: Four words, stating a problem faced in Chapters 33-36 Line 5: Five words, describing one event from these chapters Line 6: Six words, describing a second event from these chapters Line 7: Seven words, describing a third event from these chapters

Line 8: Eight words, describing another character from these chapters

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 37 - 40**

 **Before you read the chapter**:

In the coming chapters Maniac is referred to as a **legend**. A legend can be defined *as a person whose fame or notoriety makes him a source of exaggerated or romanticized tales or exploits*. To this point in the story what has Maniac done to have people think of him in this way? [You may wish to brainstorm ideas with a classmate.]

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**Vocabulary:**

In each of the following sets of words, underline the one word that does not belong. Then write a sentence explaining why it does not fit.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | battle-fatigue | heroic | brave | courageous |
|  | | | | |
| 2 | nonchalant | easygoing | composed | intense |
|  | | | | |
| 3 | perilous | apathetic | dangerous | risky |
|  | | | | |
| 4 | forlorn | sad | blue | envious |
|  | | | | |
| 5 | linger | maroon | abandon | forsake |
|  | | | | |
| 6 | compromise | accommodate | terminate | settle |
|  | | | | |
| 7 | hysterical | impassioned | frantic | serene |
|  | | | | |

##### Cloze Call

**Questions**

Complete the following exercise filling in the correct words from the **Word Box**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| kids | humiliated | sidewalks | kicks | Sycamore | instincts |
| Mars | socks | revolt | shoe | fishbelly | worms |
| Lester | pillbox | buffalo | rat | glove | Pickwells |
| East | school | backwards | library | Piper | Plum |

Maniac took off his shoes and and walked through the - infested dump. At the zoo he kissed the baby . Maniac’s deeds boosted the importance of Russell and McNab in the eyes of the other

. Maniac’s most perilous challenge was a dare to go into the

End. When Maniac entered the forbidden area he noted that there were

all over the asphalt and . One of the first people that Maniac saw was Bar, who called him and referred to his shoes as . He set up a race with Maniac on Street. Maniac’s told him to do his best in the race. As Maniac approached the finish line he ran , which really his adversary. In the midst of the jostling crowd who should appear but Hester and who took Maniac to their home on Street. When he arrived back at the McNabs’ house he found they were building a in their house. They were afraid of a of the people living in the East End. From the McNabs’ house Maniac ran all the way to the , who welcomed him for dinner, along with a

salesman. Returning to the McNabs’ he found it more and more challenging to get the boys to attend . One day the McNabb boys went too far by playing with Grayson’s old . When the boys found him a couple of days later in the , they invited Maniac to their party.

#### Language Activities

1. We have already read about a number of important conflicts in this novel. **Conflict** is an important element in a novel. There are generally three types of conflict: **person against person**; **person against self**; and **person against nature**. Find three examples of conflict in ***Maniac Magee***, and tell which type of conflict each is.

1

2

1. Maniac Magee is certainly a one-of-a-kind character. Being original is important in life (as Maniac will attest to.) Eliminate the following letters from the puzzle to reveal the secret message which was written about the subject by Bernadette Peters:

###### Z, X, Q, P, J

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Z | Y | O | U | X | H | A | V | E | Z | Q | P | X | Q | Z | J | Q | X | P | Q |
| J | Z | Q | J | X | J | Z | Q | G | O | T | Z | T | O | Q | X | J | Q | J | Z |
| O | R | I | G | I | N | A | L | , | P | X | P | Z | J | P | Q | Z | J | P | X |
| X | Q | P | Z | Q | B | E | C | A | U | S | E | Z | I | F | Z | J | Q | Z | J |
| Z | Y | O | U | X | A | R | E | Z | L | I | K | E | Q | J | P | X | J | Q | Z |
| P | X | Q | S | O | M | E | O | N | E | Z | E | L | S | E | , | W | H | A | T |
| D | O | Z | T | H | E | Y | Z | P | Q | X | J | Z | P | X | J | Q | Z | P | J |
| Z | Q | P | X | P | Q | X | N | E | E | D | Q | Y | O | U | Q | F | O | R | ? |

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| **Answer:** |
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1. **KWS Chart**

Choose a topic which is featured in Maniac Magee (i.e. **racial prejudice, homelessness, history of baseball, Willie Mays, bison, Valley Forge**). In each of the columns below add helpful details which would help someone who is researching your chosen topic.

Topic:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What I Know** | **What I want to Learn** | **Possible Sources** |
|  |  |  |

#### Ask the Author

Jerry Spinelli is a very successful American author with more 20 works of fiction to his credit, including the sequel to ***Maniac Magee***, ***Wringer*** and ***Milkweed***. Now is your opportunity to drop Jerry a letter thanking him for sharing this novel with us, and asking him some of the questions you may have thought of while reading this book. You can also go on his official webpage at <http://www.jerryspinelli.com/newbery_002.htm>

You can also check out some sample questions at the following website: <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/jerry-spinelli-interview-transcript>

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# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*

**Chapters 41 - 43**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

In the coming chapters Maniac puts all of his efforts into bringing the people of the East and West Ends together. If you were Maniac, what might be an effective idea or strategy you would use to accomplish this goal? [Again, you may wish to brainstorm ideas with a small group of colleagues.]

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**Vocabulary:**

Write a **sentence** using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

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| notion |  |
|  |
| saunter |  |
|  |
| lounge |  |
|  |
| legendary |  |
|  |
| voltage |  |
|  |
| trestle |  |
|  |
| gauntlet |  |
|  |
| nonchalant |  |
|  |

#### Questions

* 1. Why did the McNabs consider Mars Bar to be *the blackest of the black*?

1. Do you agree with Maniac’s assessment that the less blacks and whites knew about each other, the more they invented? Defend your response.
2. What strategy did Maniac employ to get Mars Bar to enter the West End?
3. Mars Bar impressed the people in the West End by stepping into traffic and stopping all the vehicles coming from both directions.

T or F

1. How did Maniac bribe the McNab boys into going to school for the rest of the year?
2. Describe the incident which almost caused a fight between John McNab and Mars Bar.

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1. Describe Maniac’s change in strategy when it came to finding a place to spend the night.

#### Language Activities

1. **Mars Bar**

Here’s something to do just for the fun of it. The character in the novel, Mars Bar, is given this nickname because of his love of this candy bar. If you were going to be nicknamed after a candy bar, what would it be – and why?

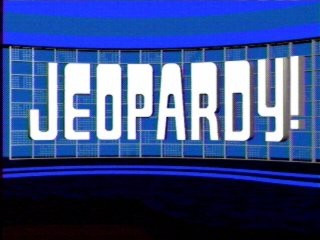
Here are some possibilities: Sweet Marie, Payday, Kit Kat, Milk Duds, Nestle Crunch, Reeses Pieces, Twix, Tootsie Roll, Snickers, Baby Ruth, Almond Joy.

#### Comparing Two Characters from the Novel

Using the Venn Diagram below compare Jeffrey with one other character from the novel. Be sure to include physical traits as well as personality traits. Remember that any characteristics these two people share should be placed in the middle of the two circles.

Maniac

#### Jeopardy



**I**magine you are preparing *Jeopardy* categories for ***Maniac Magee***. For the two categories below list five questions for each. The questions should get harder as the dollar value increases.

1. Characters in ***Maniac Magee.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| $100 |  |
| $200 |  |
| $300 |  |
| $400 |  |
| $500 |  |

1. Events in ***Maniac Magee***.

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| --- | --- |
| $100 |  |
| $200 |  |
| $300 |  |
| $400 |  |
| $500 |  |

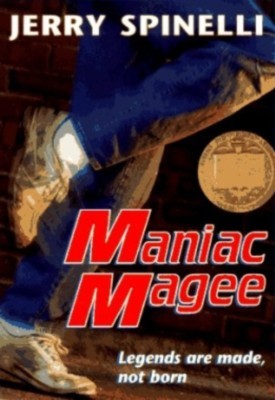
#### Collage



Make a collage from magazine pictures illustrating a scene from the novel, or events and characters from the entire novel.

# Maniac Magee

*By Jerry Spinelli*



**Chapters 44 - 46**

 **Before you read the chapters**:

Which event in the novel did you enjoy the most? Why?

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**Vocabulary:**

Beside each word in Column A write the correct synonym or definition from Column B.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **COLUMN A** | **CORRECT MEANING** |  | **COLUMN B** |
| 1. | sensation |  | a. | haphazard |
| 2. | dovetail |  | b. | motion |
| 3. | apparent |  | c. | bisect |
| 4. | random |  | d. | link |
| 5. | pry |  | e. | feeling |
| 6. | intersect |  | f. | gathering |
| 7. | congregation |  | g. | evident |
| 8. | gesture |  | h. | inquisitive |

#### Questions

1 The **climax** of a story usually occurs at the most exciting or important point of the plot. Where do you think the climax of ***Maniac Magee*** occurs?

* 1. What advantage do you think there was in Maniac and Mars Bar running together every morning? Why do you think this became important to them?

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* 1. What prevented Maniac from rescuing Russell on the trestle?
  2. How did his reluctance work to Mars Bar’s advantage?
  3. What question did Mars Bar’s mother want him to ask Maniac? What was Maniac’s response? What do you think his real reason was?

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* 1. When Amanda grabbed Maniac by the ear he thought it was a

biting him.

7 Amanda changed Mars Bar’s nickname to .

1. Who had put Amanda up to coming to the zoo to take Maniac home with her?
2. Do you think Maniac will continue to stay at Amanda’s house this time? Why or why not?

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#### Language & Extension Activities

1. **A Book Review**

Now is your chance to share the novel with others. Write a review of ***Mania Magee*** describing in no more than one paragraph an outline of the plot, and then in another paragraph how you enjoyed the novel (or didn’t) and why. (Please don’t give away the ending!) This review can be posted to a website like [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/) for others to enjoy.

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#### A Book Cover

Create a **book cover** for ***Maniac Magee***. Be sure to include the title, author, and a picture that will make other students want to read the novel.

#### Lights, Camera, Action!

Suppose Hollywood decided to make ***Maniac Magee*** into a full-length feature movie. Who would star in this exciting project? Now suppose you were asked to be the casting director for this movie. Who would you cast for the principal roles:

* Maniac –
* Amanda –
* Mars Bar –
* Mrs. Beale –
* John McNab –
* Grayson –
* Russell –
* Mrs. Pickwell –
* Piper –
* George McNab –

• –

• –

You may wish to choose Hollywood actors for this task, or for some fun, limit your choices to people in your school (teachers and students). Beside each selection write a brief explanation for your choice.

Check out some of the clips of scenes from the novel featured on **Youtube**.

#### Sequence Chart

List the main events of ***Maniac Magee*** in the order in which they occurred.

|  |
| --- |
| **Maniac Magee** |
| **First** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Next** |
| **Last** |

###### Chapters 1-4

**Answer Key**



**Vocabulary**:

**1**. deserted **2.** trestle **3**. obvious **4.** suspicious **5**. grungy

1. musicale **7.** pastel **8.** risers

###### Questions:

* 1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. his parents were killed; he was raised by an aunt and uncle who didn’t speak to each other; he started screaming during the musicale; he left home never to return; he never again attended school).
  2. A street in the East End of the town of Two Mills. 3. 11 (3 + 8 ) – 12 (51 weeks later)

1. 66.7 hours.
2. *Answers will vary*.
3. *Answers will vary* (i.e. it was a black section of town and Jeffrey was white)
4. She knew her little brother and sister and dog would destroy her books.
5. *Answers will vary*. (i.e. to get rid of him).
6. He intercepted a hard pass; moved downfield with the ball without being touched; kicked the ball with a perfect spiral; did it all with one hand.
7. *Answers will vary* (i.e. he will become famous).

###### Activities

1. *The book came flapping like a wounded duck . . .*

###### Chapters 5-8 Vocabulary:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | M |  | L |  | F | I | N | S | T | E | R | W | A | L | D |  |
|  | M | A | N | I | A | C |  | O |  | R |  | O |  | R |  | R |  |
|  |  | G |  | N |  |  | A | S | C | E | N | T |  | C | L | A | W |
| T | R | E | S | T | L | E |  | T |  | N |  |  |  | T |  | I |  |
| A |  | E | T |  | A |  |  | R |  | T | E | N | S | I | O | N |  |
| R |  |  | U |  | C | L | A | I | M |  | V |  |  | C |  |  | A |
| G | R | U | N | G | Y |  |  | L | E | G | E | N | D |  | D | O | T |
| E |  | F |  | A |  | O |  |  |  | R |  | O |  | A | B |  | T |
| T | W | O |  | P | A | N | D | E | M | O | N | I | U | M |  |  | E |
|  | I |  | D |  | C |  | E |  |  | W |  | S |  | A | M | E | N |
| I | N | T | E | R | C | E | P | T |  | N | E | E |  | N |  |  | T |
|  | D |  | N |  | E |  | A |  |  |  | C |  | A | D | O | N | I |
|  | M |  | E | X | P | E | R | T |  |  | R |  |  | A | N |  | O |
| H | I | G | H |  | T |  | T |  | Y | O | U | N | G |  | E | E | N |
|  | L |  | Y | E | S |  |  |  | O |  |  |  |  |  | A |  |  |
| I | L | L |  |  |  | S | C | H | U | Y | L | K | I | L | L |  |  |

**Questions:**

* 1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Maniac Magee’s history; what happens to kids when they end up in Finsterwald’s backyard).
  2. Never let yourself be near Finsterwald’s and high school kids at the same time.
  3. By carrying him up onto the front steps of the house.
  4. They had so many children they didn’t notice that he was uninvited until dinner was over*.*
  5. *Answers will vary*.
  6. frogball – four.
  7. *Answers will vary* (i.e. perhaps she didn’t think of him as a “maniac”).

###### Chapters 9-12 Vocabulary:

**1**. alleviating **2.** capstone **3.** bassinet **4.** frail **5.** forage **6.** appraise **7.** calamity

###### Questions

John McNab felt that beating up a kid was the same as striking him out. McNab and his friends were known as the Cobras. McNab and his friends were astonished to find Jeffrey running on a rail. Jeffrey decided not to stop at the Pickwell house where he had eaten spaghetti when escaping from McNab. McNab and the others stopped chasing him when he reached Oriole Street. When he reached the East End, Jeffrey began looking for Sycamore Street where Amanda lived. Mars Bar Thompson took the book from Jeffrey and called him fishbelly. Jeffrey was rescued by a lady in her prime. Later Jeffrey met Thompson again when he was passing a vacant lot. A torn page to Amanda was like a pet out in the rain or the broken wing of a bird. When Amanda took Jeffrey to her house, his meeting with Mrs. Beale was interrupted by a crash. They raced into the kitchen to discover that a jar of sauerkraut had been broken by Hester and Lester. Amanda’s father worked at a tire factory. Amanda’s brother and sister regarded Jeffrey as a new buddy and victim. When Amanda’s dad drove Jeffrey home, Jeffrey made the mistake of saying that he lived on a street populated with black people. It turned out that Jeffrey’s only home was a deer shed at the zoo.

Before going to bed, Jeffrey checked the numbers on Amanda’s house. Maniac Magee finally had an address.

###### Activities

1. runt – Saturday – someplace – spaghetti – sports – steel - stinging – stop – streets - stuck
2. The story begins with Lyle and Mrs. Primms going shopping and running into their neighbor, Mr. Grumps. The grouchy Mr. Grumps finds Lyle a nuisance because Lyle scares his [cat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat), Loretta, and he has him thrown in the [zoo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoo). When Lyle is freed by his old performing partner Mr. Valenti, they go back to the house on 88th Street, where they find Mr. Grumps' house on fire. Lyle rescues Mr. Grumps, is declared a hero, and thus is allowed to stay with the Primms. [Wikipedia]
3. Hester and Lester lived on Sycamore Street in the town of Two Mills. We went to see the Boston Celtics play at Madison Square Gardens. How many students attend King George Public School?

###### Chapters 13-16 Vocabulary:

1 – e 2 – h 3 – a 4 – f 5 – b 6 – g 7 – c 8 – d

###### Questions:

1 – F 2 – T 3 – T 4 – F 5 – T 6 – T 7 – F 8 – T 9 – F 10 - F

###### Activities

**A.** dishes – people or persons - families - feet - passes - churches - footballs - lives - mattresses - dinosaurs

###### Chapters 17-21 Vocabulary:

1 – testimony 2 – distraction 3 – hibernate 4 – incubate 5 – contort 6 – opponent

7 – regret 8 – publicize 9 – terrorize 10 - foresight

###### Questions:

1. *Answers will vary*.
2. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Jeffrey may have been wondering how he fit in).
3. Probably Mars Bar as he called Jeffrey *Fishbelly* back in Chapter 11.
4. She told him he needed an address to get a card – something he held very dear to his heart*.*
5. Heck’s*.*
6. F.
7. Someone took it from the Beale living room and ripped it into confetti. Jeffrey decided to leave town to protect Amanda and her family.

###### Activities

1. The Knot is personified. i.e. It had defeated all comers for years

###### Chapters 22-24 Vocabulary:

See next page for answers ….

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | B |  | U | N |  |  |  |  | E |  |  |  |  | T |
|  |  | U |  | M | O |  |  |  |  | M |  |  |  | N |
| Y |  |  | T |  | B | I |  |  |  |  | P |  |  | E |
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| E | O | D | T |  |  | R |  | U | N |  |  |  | A | L |
| I | N | I |  | U |  |  | S |  | N | G |  |  | L | P |
| T | F | G |  |  | L |  |  | C |  | D | O |  | I | M |
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###### Questions:

* 1. In the buffalo cage at the Elmwood Park Zoo*.*
  2. *Answers will vary* (i.e. perhaps he wanted to get to know him).
  3. T.
  4. Butterscotch Krimpets*.*
  5. deer
  6. YMCA. *Answers will vary*.
  7. He would start running.
  8. By informing him of what it was like living with the Beales – it was much the same as what Mr. Grayson was used to.
  9. baseball player

###### Activities

1. small – smell – nuzzle – special – nod – mop – sit - comfort

###### Chapters 25-28 Questions:

* 1. He told Grayson that the restaurant treated rookies to their first meal, when in fact they didn’t.
  2. *Answers will vary* (i.e. for the companionship).
  3. T
  4. He pitched very poorly and blew his big chance.
  5. *Answers will vary.*

*6. Answers will vary* (i.e. it was very slow and he announced the pitch).

1. He bought the discarded books from the local library.
2. *Answers will vary*.
3. *Answers will vary (*i.e. failing at baseball was extremely traumatic because it was all he had ever wanted to be successful at).

###### Chapters 29-32 Vocabulary:

1 – facilities 2 – stoic 3 – traditional 4 – reunion 5 – privileged 6 – mourner

7 – dispersed 8 – languished 9 – venture 10 – thronged

###### Questions:

1. Personification.
2. polka
3. The Number “101” (a street address). *Answers will vary*.
4. An evergreen tree in the forest*.*
5. Cap – The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays – baseball – baseball glove.
6. *Answers will vary*.
7. Jeffrey, the six pallbearers, two grave-diggers, and the man from the funeral home*.*
8. *Answers will vary.*

###### Activities

1. matchbox – evergreen – moonlight – baseball – breakfast – gravediggers – butterscotch - Thanksgiving – upward - outside

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chapters 33-36**  **Vocabulary:** |  | |
| 1 – beseech 2 – endure  6 – retaliate 7 – replica | 3 – nonperishable 4 – lambaste  8 – desolation | 5 – abundance |
| **Questions:** |  |  |
| 1. T. 2. T. 3. T. | 4. F. 5. T. 6. F. 7. T | 8. F 9. F 10. T |

###### Chapters 37-40 Vocabulary:

1 – battle-fatigue 2 – intense 3 – apathetic 4 – envious 5 – linger 6 – terminate 7 – serene

###### Questions:

Maniac took off his shoes and socks and walked through the rat-infested dump. At the zoo he kissed the baby buffalo. Maniac’s deeds boosted the importance of Russell and Piper McNab in the eyes of the other kids. Maniac’s most perilous challenge was a dare to go into the East End. When Maniac entered the forbidden area he noted that there were worms all over the asphalt and

sidewalks. One of the first people that Maniac saw was Mars Bar, who called him fishbelly and referred to his shoes as kicks. He set up a race with Maniac on Plum Street. Maniac’s instincts told him to do his best in the race. As Maniac approached the finish line he ran backwards, which really humiliated his adversary. In the midst of the jostling crowd who should appear but Hester and Lester who took Maniac to their home on Sycamore Street. When he arrived back at the McNabs’ house he found they were building a pillbox in their house. They were afraid of a revolt of the people living in the East End. From the McNabs’ house Maniac ran all the way to the Pickwells, who welcomed him for dinner, along with a shoe salesman. Returning to the McNabs’ he found it more and more challenging to get the boys to attend school. One day the McNabb boys went too far by playing with Grayson’s old glove. When the boys found him a couple of days later in the library, they invited Maniac to their party.

###### Activity

1. You have got to be original, because if your are like someone else, what do they need you for?

###### Chapters 41-43 Questions:

1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. he was bad and nasty – their stereotypical impression of African- Americans).
2. *Answers will vary*.
3. He told Mars Bar that he wasn’t tough or bad enough to take such a step.
4. T
5. With a compass.
6. One of the Cobras jumped from the ceiling and almost landed on Mars Bar.

7. He started sleeping in the backyard, porch or kitchen of various houses throughout town.

###### Chapters 44-46 Vocabulary:

1 – e 2 – d 3 – g 4 – a 5 – h 6 – c 7 – f 8 – b

###### Questions:

1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Amanda retrieves Maniac from the zoo and takes him home with her).
2. They encouraged one another by their presence.
3. Memories of his parents being killed at the same location.
4. Mars Bar rescued Russell and became a hero.
5. Why he never came to their house. He said he just couldn’t. *Answers will vary.*
6. buffalo
7. Snickers
8. Mars Bar
9. *Answers will vary.*