

Maniac Magee

Chapter	Summary	Focus Questions/Teaching
Before Story	Explains the legend that is Maniac Magee as something that part truth/part fiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What is a legend? *Who is “they”? *What evidence is there that Maniac Magee is a legend? *Explain quote-the author warns readers “not to let the facts get mixed up with the truth”. *Genre? <i>Realistic fiction</i>
Part 1-1	Maniac Magee’s (real name Jeffery Lionel Magee) parents were killed in an accident and he became an orphan. He was sent to live with his Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan. They did not like each other by refused to divorce so Jeffrey’s time was split between the two. While at a chorus performance, he proceeds to yell and run out of the auditorium and never came back.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -point of view-third person (refer to chart on window) *How would you describe Magee? What evidence supports your answer? *What facts do we know about Magee?
2	Maniac Magee proceeds to leave town and run 200 miles to Two Mills. Only a few saw him running—he would run past them looking scraggly, in worn out shoes. He would run past them and just say “hi”. Mentioned meeting a friend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Characterization—How do we learn about a character? By their thoughts, their actions, their words, what others say about them. -Simile-comparison of two things using like or as. (page 9) “..both sneakers hanging by their hinges and flopping open like dog tongues..” What visual does this create? *Why is this time known as the lost year?
3	Maniac meets a friend, Amanda. She is an African American girl and Magee was a white boy. During those times, the two races lived in separate towns. Amanda had lots of books she was carrying to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Figurative Language-purpose is to provide an even clearer meaning for reader. It should enhance the picture in the readers mind.

	<p>school when Magee asked to borrow one. She reluctantly agreed to let him borrow one.</p>	<p>Examples: 1-(page 11) “He and Amanda and the suitcase were like a rock in a stream; the school-goers just flowed to the left and right around them.” Simile-describe the visual that this comparison creates 2-(page 9) “...there must have been ten thousand people and a parade of fire trucks waiting for him at the town limits.” Hyperbole-exaggerated statement to show there were 3)(page 7) “No one knew it then, but it [Jeffrey’s scream at the spring musicale] was the <u>birth scream of a legend.</u>” Metaphor-compares the scream to the cry of a newborn baby Go over directions on figurative language ws that students will do for homework.</p>
4-6	<p>Story continues as he is running... Maniac (Jeffrey) made three other appearances that day: 1) football field-he punted a ball perfectly down the field holding a book with the varsity team watching. 2)theFinsterwald’s house-notorious house that no kid goes near. Group of high school kids toss a younger kid over the fence at the house and Magee rescues him. He then say down on their front steps and read. 3)Pickwell’s house-This family was known for helping out and sharing food with others. Had a huge family and so when Magee shows up to no one really noticed. He was out the door and running along the rail of a railroad track before anyone could question him.</p>	<p>*Why were Fisterwald’s front steps “the only un-sat-on front steps in town”? *We are hearing about lots of feats that Jeffrey does. How realistic do you think these events are? *Currently Jeffrey is homeless. What do you know about homelessness?</p>
7-11	<p>Jeffrey is seen next when he shows up to bat at a Little League event. John McNab, a huge 12 yr old, is setting a new strikeout record. Jeffrey makes a</p>	

	<p>homerun off a bunt. After all this, everyone starts calling him Maniac. Maniac is staying (and eating) in the deer shed at the zoo. He read and rereads Amanda's book. McNab and his pals search for Maniac to get even. They chase him into the East End. (Black section). Maniac meets Mars Bar who tries to intimidate Maniac. Mars challenges him to have a bite of his candy bar. Then he tries to take Maniac's book. A page is ripped out, but an adult intervenes and Maniac walks away. Mars bar and his friends later confront Maniac, but Amanda shows up and knows Mars ripped the page out.</p>	
12-14	<p>Amanda takes Maniac home. He eats, plays & reads with her family. That night he confesses to Mr. Beale – he's homeless. He stays with the Beales. Maniac astounds Mrs. Beale by keeping his room spotless, playing with Hester & Lester, doing housework without being asked etc. Maniac finds he loves his new life with the Beales. He even goes to church with them and shouts Hallelujah! He plays football with Hands Down</p>	<p>Possible questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze why Mrs. Beale immediately likes Maniac - Generalize why Maniac enjoys the Beales' mundane family activities so much - Compare and Contrast the Beales to the Pickwells - Infer why Maniac's pizza allergy had not been previously discussed - What do the Beale's do to make Maniac apart of the family? - Explain this quote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Inside his house, a kid gets one name, but on the other side of the door, it's whatever the rest of the world wants to call him." <p>Vocabulary Words: solemnly (p. 42), quiver (p.43), blotches (p. 48), pulpit (p.51), gingersnap (p.51),</p> <p>Language can create a sensory impression within the reader's mind. It consists of words and phrases that appeal</p>

		<p>to the reader's senses. Writers use sensory detail to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. This is called Imagery. In chapters 14 and 15, Spinelli uses a great deal of imagery to describe these things that Maniac loves about his new life.</p> <p>Examples of Imagery: (after Chapter 14)</p>																		
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1050 418 1335 511">The things Maniac loved</th> <th data-bbox="1335 418 1621 511">Words That Create Imagery</th> <th data-bbox="1621 418 1908 511">The Sense or senses that the imagery appeals to</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1050 511 1335 699">Early Morning</td> <td data-bbox="1335 511 1621 699">Red Brick rows of houses, even the windows resting from faces, the cool silent sidewalks, water running</td> <td data-bbox="1621 511 1908 699"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1050 699 1335 748">Pancake Batter</td> <td data-bbox="1335 699 1621 748"></td> <td data-bbox="1621 699 1908 748"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1050 748 1335 797">Church</td> <td data-bbox="1335 748 1621 797"></td> <td data-bbox="1621 748 1908 797"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1050 797 1335 862">The Fourth of July Block Party</td> <td data-bbox="1335 797 1621 862"></td> <td data-bbox="1621 797 1908 862"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1050 862 1335 922">The Colors of the East End</td> <td data-bbox="1335 862 1621 922"></td> <td data-bbox="1621 862 1908 922"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	The things Maniac loved	Words That Create Imagery	The Sense or senses that the imagery appeals to	Early Morning	Red Brick rows of houses, even the windows resting from faces, the cool silent sidewalks, water running		Pancake Batter			Church			The Fourth of July Block Party			The Colors of the East End		
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15-17	<p>People begin to recognize he's that "Maniac kid". He learns trash talk, but when he tries it out at home, Mrs. Beale slaps him. Maniac doesn't recognize that some people dislike him. While out at the street party, an old man yells at him to go home (to the white side). One morning, "Fishbelly go home" is chalked on the Beale's house.</p>	<p>Possible questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citing evidence from the book, how have Maniac and Mrs. Beale developed a parent-child relationship - What are 3 feats that spread about Maniac in the East End - Using examples from the novel, what does the author mean by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ And some kids don't like a kid who is different - Judge if the Ragpicker is speaking for just himself or for a large group in the East End <p>Vocabulary Words: vacant (p.55), unbeknownst (p.56), veering (p.57), blaring (p.59), clotted (p.60), gawked (p.62),</p>																		

		<p>Descriptive Language: Writers use this to convey a certain type of mood.</p> <p>They [bigger kids] found out he [Maniac] could do more with a football than just catch it. He could run like a squirrel. He juked and jived and spun and danced and darted, and he left them squeezing handfuls of air (p.55) What's the simplified version? Maniac is great at football. Explanation? The author's description shows us all the things that Maniac can do with a football</p> <p>She [Mrs. Beale] didn't like this boy bringing the vacant lot into her kitchen, and she didn't like how it fit his mouth. (p.55) What's the simplified version? Mrs. Beale doesn't like Maniac trash-talking. Explanation? The author's description gives us a glimpse of how Mrs. Beale sees it.</p>
18-21	<p>When Maniac leaves there home, Amanda spends all evening searching for him – but he shows up again. Amanda has an idea to get everyone to like Maniac. Amanda's idea is for Maniac to untie Cobble's Knot. Years ago, the contest had started and whoever could untie this volleyball size knot would be famous. Manic started the task with a small audience that grew as the day progressed. By dinnertime, the knot was gone. Everyone is celebrating. But when Amanda discovers someone has shredded her beloved "A" Encyclopedia – Maniac decides he really must leave.</p>	<p>Vocabulary Words: coot (p.64), pickpocket (p.69), testimony (p.70), cunning (p.73)</p> <p>Types of Conflict: (use notes) Using the situations below, tell the type of conflict and explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maniac knew what the rest of them didn't: the hardest part was yet to come. He had to find the right routes to untangle the mess, or it [Cobble's Knot] would just close up again like a rock and probably stay that way forever. He would need the touch of a surgeon, the alertness of an

owl, the cunning of three foxes, and the foresight of a grand master in chess (p. 72-73)

- Type of conflict: Man vs. himself
- Explanation: Maniac has to mentally and physically prepare to untangle Cobble's Know
- More than anything, Maniac wanted to hug Amanda and tell her it was okay. He wanted to go inside, be with his family, in his house, in his room, behind his window. But that wasn't the right thing. The right thing was to make sure the Beales didn't get hurt anymore. He couldn't keep letting them pay such a price for him. (p.75)
 - Type of conflict: Man vs. himself
 - Explanation: Maniac is wrestling with staying with the Beales as opposed to leaving and protecting them
 - *OR*
 - Type of conflict: Man vs. Society
 - Explanation: Maniac knows that the Beales will continue to have problems with the neighbors(society) and does not want them to be involved in that conflict

Situational Irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen.

Examples:

- A woman finally pays off her car and the next day it is wrecked and totaled.
- The man who was the voice of Bugs Bunny was allergic to carrots.
- A woman goes on a diet and the very next day wins a huge chocolate cake.

		<p>- A lifeguard drowns.</p> <p>Why is it ironic that Maniac Magee wins pizza for a whole year from Cobble's Corner?</p> <p>Figurative Language Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “To the ordinary person, Cobble’s Knot was about as friendly as a nest of yellow jackets” (pg. 70 – simile) • “The knot hanging above him like a small hairy planet, the mob buzzing all around him” (pg. 72 – simile) • “and then at dinnertime, a huge roar went up, <u>a volcano of cheers.</u>” (pg. 73 – Metaphor)
22-24	<p>Maniac is living in the buffalo pen at the zoo. He is injured and found by Mr. Grayson who helps and feeds him – a lot. Grayson takes him to his home at the YMCA. He buys him butterscotch Krimpets and new clothes. Maniac, however, refuses to go to school. Grayson quizzes Maniac about how blacks live – and seems surprised that they are normal people.</p>	<p>Possible questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is the new character we meet? Give a good description. - Why does Grayson keep asking questions about the East Enders? - Is he surprised at the answers? Why or why not? <p>Vocabulary Words: leering (p.75), escort (p.76), minor (p.85), prompt (p.85), recognition (p.86), piped (p.87), dumbfounded (p.87)</p> <p>Figurative Language Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A tiny idea was beginning to worm its way</u> into Grayson's head (pg. 85 – metaphor) • “It was after dark when they got back to the baseball equipment room. The worm in Grayson’s head had long since ceased to be a tiny tickle; it was now a maddening itch” (pg. 89 – metaphor).
25-27	<p>Maniac finds out Grayson used to be a pitcher in</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p>

	<p>the Minor Leagues. He wants to hear stories about it. Grayson tells him about the practical joke a gas station attendant played on him. They work together at the zoo while Grayson tells his stories. Soon, they are out in the park playing baseball. Grayson would pitch his "Stopball" that Maniac couldn't hit. Maniac has been buying old books from the library. Grayson asks Maniac to teach him to read. He had run away at 15 from uncaring, drunk parents. He learns quickly & begins to read.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What excuse does Grayson use for Maniac working with him at the zoo? - What does Maniac mean when he says he goes to school? - What is the surprise at the end of Ch. 26? - Grayson felt like vowels were "his own best knuckleball come back to haunt him." Why? <p>Vocabulary Words: stubble (p.91), weariness (p.91), robust (p.92), repertoire (p.97), anxious (p.102)</p> <p>Figurative Language Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It reminded him of a bronc some cowboy dared him to ride in his Texas League days. He would saddle up that c, climb aboard and grip the pommel for dear life, and ol' c, more often than not, it would throw him. Whenever that happened, he'd just climb right back on and ride 'er some more" (pg. 101 - metaphor) • <u>Vowels were something else.</u> He didn't like them, and <u>they didn't like him.</u> (pg. 101 - personification)
28-32	<p>Grayson reads his first book. Maniac responds by shouting Amen and then preparing a snack. He invites Grayson to spend the night. On Thanksgiving, they go to the high school football game, then to the apartment. Maniac says a prayer over their dinner. Later they dance to polka music. He then paints a 101 outside his door. Grayson moves into 101 Band Shell Boulevard with Maniac. They decorate everything for Christmas, including a tree out in the woods. Christmas morning comes; they celebrate first by</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What kind things have Maniac & Grayson done for each other? - What kind of music does Grayson like? - Why does Maniac paint a 101 outside his door? - Maniac & Grayson go crazy decorating for Christmas – can you make a connection? - How did Maniac & Grayson celebrate Christmas? - Why did Maniac hop the fence at the buffalo pen? - What is the sad surprise at the end of ch. 32? - How does Maniac react when Grayson dies?

	<p>visiting the animals. Maniac gives Grayson a book he had made himself. Grayson gives Maniac his old glove and a new ball. Five days after Christmas, Grayson dies. Only Maniac and the pall bearers show up at the funeral. When the minister doesn't show, Maniac is upset and starts running.</p>	<p>Vocabulary Words: climax (p.103), preposterous (p.105), deputized (p.106), pursuers (p.106), proclaimed (p.109), meandering (p.113), crudely (p.114), stoic (p.115), mourner (p.116), pallbearer (p. 117)</p>
33-35	<p>Before leaving the band shell for good, Maniac angrily paints over the 101. During the days, he runs. He eats at the zoo or soup kitchen. Finally he settles in at a cabin at Valley Forge and waits to die. Two young runaways show up – Russell & Piper. He convinces them to return to Two Mills with him to get a pizza. Then he discovers they are McNab's brothers. When McNab is convinced Maniac wasn't trying to kidnap his brothers, he brings him home. What a sight! Garbage everywhere, boarded up windows...The young McNabs pretend they are shooting the enemy (the blacks).</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why does Maniac settle in the cabin and want to die? - Describe the new characters. - What does Maniac do to convince the boys to return home? - When the 2 boys were laughing at their brother, what nice thing did Maniac do? (p. 130) - Describe the McNab's home. - What are the moving raisins? (roaches) <p>Figurative Language Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "January slipped an icy finger under his collar and down his back. He pulled the blanket tighter about himself, but it was too late. The finger had touched the last warm coal in his hearth, and his body, fanning the ember, shook itself violently (pg. 125 - personification)."
36-38	<p>Russell & Piper find they're getting a lot of attention because Maniac is staying with them. To keep them going to school, Maniac agrees to stay in Finsterwald's backyard for 10 minutes. He even went and knocked on the front door. After that Maniac was doing heroic feats each week. Finally, he was challenged to go into the East End. When he did, he ran into Mars Bar who challenged him to race. Maniac easily beat him and felt a little bad</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the Maniac living with them, how do the McNabs start to feel? (important) - Predict: What do you think will happen when Maniac knocks on the door at Finsterwalds? - What tuition did Maniac pay so Russell & Piper would go to school? (doing heroic feats)

	about it. He reunites with the Beale Family.	
39-41	<p>Later, Maniac returns to the McNabs. They are building a “pillbox” in their filthy house, so they can defend themselves when the black East Enders attack. Maniac takes off running and ends up at the Pickwell’s for dinner. Maniac stays busy trying to keep Russell and Piper in school. But Maniac leaves after catching them playing with Grayson’s mitt. When Piper invites him to his birthday party, he brings Mars Bar with him. But not until after he takes Mars Bar to the best of the West – the Pickwell’s for dinner.</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why does building a pillbox upset Maniac? How does Maniac convince Mars Bar to come to the West End? - Why does Maniac take Mars Bar to the Pickwell’s for dinner?
42-46	<p>Maniac shows up at the McNabs with Mars Bar. It is uncomfortable for everyone. The feelings of racism are evident. The party game they played was white vs. blacks. Soon, Maniac is dragging Mars Bar out before a fight erupts. But Maniac finds he is proud of Mars Bar for his courage. Again, Maniac is homeless. He starts sleeping in a different backyard every night. Early each morning he runs. One day he encounters Mars Bar. Without talking, they start running together. One morning, Piper comes crying for help. Russell is stuck out on the trestle over the water. Maniac just walks away. Mars Bar finds Maniac sleeping in the buffalo pen. He tells Maniac about his rescuing Russell and how he even brought the 2 McNab boys home with him.</p>	<p>Possible Questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why did Maniac bring Mars Bar to the McNabs? - Predict: What do you think will happen at the party? - How did Maniac know the townspeople? (p.168) - Why does Maniac walk away instead of rescue Russell? - Predict: Who will rescue Russell? How do you think Mars Bar feels after rescuing one of the white West End kids? - Do you think Maniac has finally found “home”?

	But when Maniac doesn't want to go home with him, Amanda comes down to drag him to her house - "home".	
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