Maniac Magee

Study Guide

Maniac Magee

Study Guide: Chapters 1-12
Open-Ended Response: Character Analysis

**Directions:** Maniac Magee can be described as a confident and fearless individual. Using at least 6-8 detailed sentences, name and describe two instances where Maniac Magee demonstrates these two traits. Remember to use phrases like “According to the text, on Page X” or “This is shown on Page X, when…”

Title: ____________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
Chapters 1-12

Directions: Using clear and specific evidence from the text, answer each question in complete, detailed sentences.

1. Why did Jeffrey live with his Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan? Why does he run away? (Chapter 1)

2. Who is the first person to talk to Jeffrey? Why does she take all of her books in a suitcase with her? (Chapter 3)

3. Why do kids stay away from 803 Oriole Street? (Chapter 5)

4. What does it mean to be a Samaritan? How is the mysterious boy a Samaritan? (Chapter 5)
5. What do the Pickwell kids notice about where Jeffrey is running? (Chapter 6)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

6. How does Jeffrey foil McNab’s record? (Chapter 7)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. Name two events that contribute to Maniac Magee’s nickname. (Chapter 8)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

8. Why do the Cobras want to find Maniac Magee? (Chapter 9)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

9. How does Amanda’s attitude towards Maniac change when she meets him the second time? (Chapter 11)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
10. What is Mr. Beale surprised to learn about Maniac Magee? What does he do to help? (Chapter 12)
Maniac Magee: Chapters 1-12

Across

6. Violent trembling of the body, especially in the extremities (arms and legs).
7. Jeffrey Lionel Magee’s new nickname.
8. The street boundary between the East and West Ends.
12. Where they say that Maniac Magee was born in.
13. Another word for a mirage, or optical illusion.

Down

1. The name of the group of McNab and his pals.
2. What animal kids chant that Maniac Magee kissed.
3. “It’s as if every bone inside him is clamoring to get out.” is an example of this type of figurative language.
4. “McNab was a giant.” is an example of this type of figurative language.
5. The last name of the woman known for one of the all-time great whistles.
7. The name of the chocolate bar that Thompson was named after.
9. The owner of a Two Mills Little League pitching record.
10. Jeffrey began running the night of his ______ musical.
11. The time that Jeffrey was gone between Hollidaysburg and Two Mills is called The _____ Year.
Open-Ended Response: Theme

Directions: Throughout Part 1 of the novel, Maniac deals with a variety of challenges and obstacles. Using these incidents, write about a theme of the first half of the story. What message about life or human nature is the author, Jerry Spinelli, trying to convey? Remember to use phrases like “According to the text, on Page X” or “This is shown on Page X, when...”

Title: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Chapters 13-24

Directions: Using clear and specific evidence from the text, answer each question in complete, detailed sentences.

1. How does Maniac fit in at the Beale household? Name two ways that he helps out. (Chapter 13)
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. How does Maniac view the skin color of people differently? (Chapter 14)
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What opinion does Maniac have of trash talk? How does Mrs. Beale feel about this and what does she do about it? (Chapter 15)
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Why is Maniac characterized as blind in Chapter 16? Why do certain people express dislike about his “blindness”? (Chapter 16)
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
5. What are two examples of hyperbole that are used to describe August in Chapter 17? (Chapter 17)

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

6. How does a voice in the crowd expose Maniac to racism? What are Maniac’s feelings about this incident? (Chapter 17)

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

7. What solution does Maniac put forth so that he can continue reading outside of the Beale household? What is the flaw in his plan? (Chapter 18)

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

8. What is the mood like at the end of Part 1? How does Maniac feel at the end of Chapter 21? (Chapter 21)

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
9. What favors does Grayson do for Maniac when he first meets him? (Chapter 22)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

10. What does Maniac find out that Grayson wanted to be when he was younger? (Chapter 24)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
Across
5. Maniac keeping his room neat is the “-------“ on Sycamore Street
6. The last name of the man who runs the Corner Grocery.
8. “…A huge roar went up, a volcano of cheers.” is an example of this type of figurative language.
9. What animal Maniac could run like.
11. The old man’s name who Maniac meets at the start of Part 2.
12. A Two Mills type of hoagie.

Down
1. “Ouuuu!” & “Ahhhh!” are examples of this type of figurative language.
2. A food that Maniac finds that he is allergic to.
3. The name Maniac prefers to be called while at the Beale household.
4. Where Maniac prefers to sleep.
7. Maniac knows that Amanda Beale is a rotten ______.
9. “His eyes lit up like flashbulbs” is an example of this type of figurative language.
10. What needs to be untangled to win one large pizza per week for a whole year.
Name: __________________________
Period (s): ____________
ELA: Grade 6: Mr. Burica

Maniac Magee

Study Guide: Chapters 25-35
Open-Ended Response: Character Comparison

**Directions:** Although Maniac Magee and Grayson come from very different backgrounds, they both have suffered from *adversity*, or troubles in their life. Choose two examples of difficulty from Grayson’s life and explain how he manages to deal with them. Remember to use phrases like “According to the text, on Page X” or “This is shown on Page X, when…”

Title: ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Chapters 25-35

Directions: Using clear and specific evidence from the text, answer each question in complete, detailed sentences.

1. Why did Grayson miss pitching his first game for the Bluefield Bullets? (Chapter 25)
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. What does Grayson help Maniac learn about? How?
   What does Maniac help Grayson learn about? How? (Chapter 26)
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. What metaphor is used to describe Maniac’s determination with teaching Grayson? (Chapter 27)
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. How does Grayson make Maniac feel?
   Cite and explain one example from the text to support your answer. (Chapters 22-31)
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
5. What is the **mood** like during Maniac and Grayson’s Thanksgiving dinner? Cite one line from the text that supports your idea. (Chapter 29)

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

6. “If Thanksgiving was wonderful, Christmas was paradise.” How and why is this so? (Chapter 30)

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

7. Name **two** ways that Maniac and Grayson spend their Christmas together. (Chapter 31)

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

8. How does the **mood** of Chapter 32 sharply contrast with the **mood** of Chapter 31? Why is there such a change in how the novel makes the reader feel? (Chapters 31-32)

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

9. How does Maniac come to find himself at Valley Forge? What is Valley Forge? (Chapter 33)

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________
10. Why is Maniac’s time at the McNab household described as “scenes from a loony movie?” Name one example that supports this label. (Chapter 35)
Maniac Magee: Chapters 25-35

Across
3. For Christmas, Maniac gives Grayson a pair of gloves, a woolen cap, and a ----.
4. Another word for bathroom or restroom.
5. “…a purer presence.” is an example of this type of figurative language.
8. The position that Grayson played in the Minors.
11. The subject in Math that studies shapes and analyzes types of triangles.
12. The type of Army during the Revolutionary War that used Valley Forge to survive through a harsh winter.
13. The boy whose house is “the most amazing thing” Maniac has ever seen.
14. The type of music that Maniac and Grayson enjoy listening to.
15. The only pitch that Grayson “still has left in his repertoire”.

Down
1. The type of sound that Grayson struggles to read.
2. “…Winter toyed with Two Mills, whispered in its ear, tickled it under the chin” are all examples of this type of figurative language.
6. Grayson’s favorite book: Mike Mulligan’s Steam -----
7. What gets the most attention of all during Maniac and Grayson’s Christmas celebration.
9. The word that Maniac uses to describe his joy upon hearing The Little Engine That Could being read out loud.
10. “His smile was so wide he’d have had to break it into sections to fit it through a doorway.” is an example of this type of figurative language.
Book Review

Directions: After you finish reading the novel, use the space below to write a review featuring your thoughts and feelings on the characters, plot, and themes of Maniac Magee. Use clear examples from the novel and explain with as much support as you can.

My Rating:

What I Enjoyed about the Characters:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What I Enjoyed about the Plot:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What I Would Change and/or Final Thoughts:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Chapters 36-46

Directions: Using clear and specific evidence from the text, answer each question in complete, detailed sentences.

1. What is the deal that Maniac makes with Russell and Piper? (Chapter 36)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. What are two heroic feats that Maniac Magee performs? (Chapter 37)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. Where does Maniac go on the day of the worms? Who does he meet again? (Chapter 38)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. What race does Maniac get involved in? How does his opponent react to the outcome? (Chapter 38)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
5. Why are the West Enders building a pillbox? (Chapter 39)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

6. How is Maniac’s return visit to the Pickwell house different from his first time? (Chapter 40)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. What finally causes Maniac to “explode” in Chapter 40? What is the aftermath of this event? (Chapter 40)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

8. What is the tone of Chapter 43? How does Maniac’s behavior reinforce this tone? (Chapter 43)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

9. Who does Maniac come to learn has been following him? Why is this individual following him? (Chapter 44)

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
10. Why does Maniac feel good not talking at the end of Chapter 46? What has finally happened to him? (Chapter 46)
Maniac Magee: Chapters 36-46

Across
6. A type of bridge that Maniac is fearful of.
7. Who turns out to be the "voice of the buffalo" in Chapter 46.
8. Another word for dangerous, as in Maniac's challenge to go back to the East End.
10. The last name of the individual who is brought to a birthday party with Maniac.
11. The house where Maniac is dared to return to.
12. The day of the -----, that first almost warm, after-the-rainy-night day in April.
13. What is treated by the McNab boys as a football, causing Maniac to "explode".

Down
1. The type of challenge that Maniac is faced with from another boy in Chapter 38.
2. What Russell's grip is compared to in Chapter 45.
3. "Quick as a lizard's tongue" is an example of this type of figurative language.
4. Where Russell and Piper want to go.
5. Another word for a lot of noise or chaos, as in the crowd at the end of Chapter 38.
9. A type of fort or guard post that is built by the McNab boys.