

Maniac Magee

Part I
Novel Guide



Book by:

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Vocabulary ~ Match each word with its definition. Write the letter on the line that is the definition for that word.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| _____ 1. maniac | a. car that runs on electricity from overhead poles |
| _____ 2. legacy | b. to lift up |
| _____ 3. trolley | c. crazy person |
| _____ 4. trestle | d. dirty and unkempt |
| _____ 5. grungy | e. inheritance, or what is left to a person |
| _____ 6. commotion | f. support made of a horizontal bar with four legs |
| _____ 7. hoist | g. confusion, noise, trouble |

Looking Back ~ Answer each of the following questions in a COMPLETE SENTENCE. Use the question in your answer and give examples from the book whenever possible.

1. Describe Jeffrey's life with his Aunt Dot and his Uncle Dan.

2. Jeffrey saw a few people on his way into the town of Two Mills. What was it that these people remembered about him? Why did this stick out in their minds?

3. Explain the difference between the East End and the West End of Two Mills.

4. Why does Arnold Jones need Jeffrey Magee to help him? Would you have helped Arnold? Why or why not? _____

Character Clues ~ Jeffrey Lionel Magee

1. What clues from these chapters give us an idea about Jeffrey's personality and/or characteristics? What do these clues tell us about Jeffrey? Give at least 2.

- Ex. *On pages 14-15*, Jeffrey intercepts the ball and then punts it a long way. This tells us that he is very *athletic*.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. What clue in the book would lead us to believe that Amanda is a trusting sort of person?

Response Journal

Tell about a time when you or someone you know were so scared that you thought everyone had to be able to hear your teeth chattering, or see your body shaking. If you haven't experienced this, what might make you feel this scared?



Vocabulary ~ Often you can tell what a word means from the context of the story. Use the pages found by the word to read the passage and try to determine the meaning of the word. If you need help, consult a dictionary. Be sure to write the definition in your own words.

- 1. gaping (24) _____
- 2. pandemonium (25) _____
- 3. blemish (30) _____
- 4. befuddled (35) _____
- 5. finicky (38) _____

Looking Back ~ Answer each of the following in COMPLETE SENTENCES. Use the question in your answer and examples from the book whenever possible.

- 1. How was Jeffrey able to eat unnoticed at the Pickwell house?

- 2. How do you think John McNab would treat Jeffrey if they were to cross paths again? Why?

- 3. Give two examples from that show how Jeffrey took good care of the book that he borrowed from Amanda.
 - a) _____

 - b) _____

4. Why did the Cobras stop chasing Jeffrey at Hector Street?

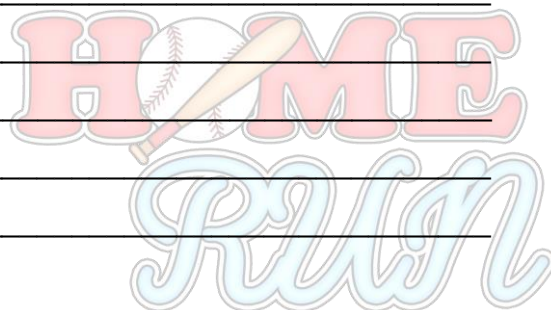
Character Clues ~ Jeffrey Lionel Magee – Maniac Magee

1. Many times a legend is created through exaggeration. What happens in this section that makes Maniac Magee even more of a legend or a myth? Give 3 examples.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____



2. What do Maniac Magee and Mars Bar Thompson have in common? Look carefully at pg. 36 to find out. _____

Response Journal

Have you ever had someone damage or destroy something that was very special to you? How did you feel? What did you do?



Vocabulary ~ The definition for each word has been written as it appears in the dictionary. Using your own words, re-write the definition to help you remember this word the next time you encounter it in your reading. When you write a definition, you need to put it into words that you will know and remember.

- 1. solitude – dictionary definition - single/sole; n. being alone
my definition _____
- 2. converged – dictionary definition – to come together at a certain place
my definition _____
- 3. unbeknownst – dictionary definition – without anyone knowing
my definition _____

Looking Back ~ Answer each of the following in a COMPLETE SENTENCE. Use the question in your answer and examples from the book whenever possible.

- 1. What was the significance of Maniac's actions before he went to sleep the first night he spent at the Beale's? _____

- 2. Give 3 effects Maniac had on the Beale household.
 - a) _____

 - b) _____

 - c) _____

- 3. Why is it so important to Jeffrey that Mrs. Beale and her family call him Jeffrey rather than 'Maniac'? _____

4. The author tells us that Maniac is blind, sort of. What kinds of things is Maniac blind to? Give two examples of things Maniac couldn't see, and how it affected him.

a) _____

b) _____

Character Clues ~ Place the characters in the book into the section where they live.

East End	West End

Response Journal

Jeffrey Lionel Magee became Maniac to everyone outside of the Beale household. Have you ever had a nickname that people call you more often than they call you by your real name? If so, what was it? How did you get this nickname? If not, what would you like as a nickname?



Vocabulary ~ Give a synonym for each word. A synonym is a word that means the same, or close to the same thing.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| _____ 1. gawked | a. a very long time |
| _____ 2. glum | b. unnatural twists |
| _____ 3. eons | c. stared |
| _____ 4. contortions | d. roar or growl |
| _____ 5. snarling | e. gloomy, sad |

Looking Back ~ Answer each of the following in COMPLETE SENTENCES. Use the question in your answer and examples from the book whenever possible.

1. Why had Amanda, Hester and Lester all tried to delay Maniac's arrival back at home? What does this tell you about their feelings towards Maniac?

2. How did Amanda feel when Maniac left? How do you know? How did she feel when he returned? How do you know? _____

3. What effect do you think the undoing of Cobble's Knot will have on the legend that is Maniac Magee? What makes you think this?

4. Why did Maniac decide he must leave the Beale's house to find another place to live? If you were in Maniac's shoes, would you have left? Why or why not?

Character Clues

Maniac leaves town in the middle of two groups of teenagers. On the West End side are the Cobras, and on the East End side we have Mars Bar and his gang. Why is it appropriate that Maniac is walking in the middle of these two groups as he *walks*, not runs, out of town?

Response Journal

Describe a time when you felt like someone didn't want you to be around him or her. How did you resolve the issue?

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