

# Maniac Magee

*Preview*

Try out this  
unit. Scroll  
down to see  
sample  
pages.



# Which version of this unit do I need?

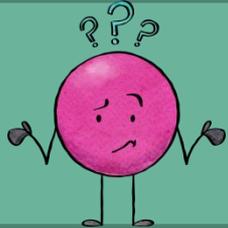
Version	Links to Digital Resources	Vocabulary Practice	Comprehension Questions	Constructed Writing Prompts	Activities	Skill Practice
Maniac Magee Digital + Printable	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maniac Magee Printable		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maniac Magee Abridged		✓	✓	✓	✓	

On the following pages, you will see snapshot examples for

**Maniac Magee**

**Digital + Printable Novel Study.**

Be sure to look closely to see which version works best for your needs.





# DIGITAL VOCABULARY

Digital vocabulary practice is provided through Boom Learning Decks.



## Vocabulary Review for Chapters 1 - 11

Matching - Write a, b, c, or d in each blank to match the best word to complete each sentence.

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Maniac broke out because he had an _____ to pizza.                                  | a. suffice |
| 2. Amanda was very _____ about her books. She wanted them cared for with much respect. | b. maniac  |
| 3. _____ it to say that the judge was furious when the lawyer wanted to argue.         | c. allergy |
| 4. One day someone referred to Jeffery as a _____ and the name stuck.                  | d. finicky |

Fill in each blank using a vocabulary word from the list at the top of the page.

- Asthma, eczema, and hay fever are \_\_\_\_\_ which run in families.
- For this cut, I am sure a small bandage will \_\_\_\_\_ as a dressing.
- After driving through New York City, I am sure the taxi driver was a raving \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ baby would not eat anything I put before her.

Drag the synonyms of **maniac** to the synonym box and the antonyms of **maniac** to the antonym box.

Synonym

Antonym

sound

freak

wise

mental case

madman

normal



# 9 COMPREHENSION CHECKS

## Maniac Magee ~ Chapters 1-5

1. Chapter 1 can best be described as ----.

- an insight into Maniac's personality
- details about Maniac's appearance
- an explanation of why Maniac ran away from home
- background information about the East and West Sides of Hector Street

3. From which point of view is Maniac written?

- first-person point of view - The author tells the story through the eyes of protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.
- third-person limited point of view - narrator follows Maniac and only reveals thoughts.
- second person point of view - The narrator describes events as if they are happening to you. The reader is a participant in the of this story.
- third-person omniscient - The narrator knows details about all the characters.

5. Select the correct answer inside the brackets.

The author, Jerry Spinelli, uses a [hyperbole, scientific facts, onomatopoeia, historical details] in *Maniac Magee*.

Give one example.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Which question does the reader NOT the answer to after reading the first chapters of *Maniac Magee*?

- How does Maniac survive living on his own?
- What is Maniac good at doing?
- What does Maniac want from Am Beale?
- What happened to cause Maniac to run away?



Page |

2. A good title for Chapters 2-5 could be ----.

- Getting Into Trouble

## Maniac Magee ~ Chapters 1-5 Answer Key

1. Chapter 1 can best be described as ----.

- an insight into Maniac's personality
- details about Maniac's appearance
- an explanation of why Maniac ran away from home
- background information about the East and West Sides of Hector Street

3. From which point of view is Maniac Magee written?

- first-person point of view - The author tells the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.
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- second person point of view - The author describes events as if they are happening to you. The reader is a participant in the action of this story.
- third-person omniscient - The narrator knows details about all the characters.

5. Select the correct answer inside the set of brackets.

The author, Jerry Spinelli, uses a lot of [hyperbole, scientific facts, onomatopoeia, historical details] in *Maniac Magee*.

Give one example.

- Maniac keeps an eight-inch cockroach on a leash.
- Rats guard Maniac while he sleeps.
- Maniac runs away from his aunt and uncle's house at 11 years old and runs for a year.

7. Which question does the reader NOT know the answer to after reading the first five chapters of *Maniac Magee*?

- How does Maniac survive living on his own?
- What is Maniac good at doing?
- What does Maniac want from Amanda Beale?
- What happened to cause Maniac to run away?



Page | 13 Unit Created by Gay Miller

Which sentence does not belong?

(A) The quarterback, Brian Denehy, threw a sixty-yarder to James "Hands" Down. (B) Before the ball could reach Hands, Maniac caught it. (C) Maniac ran up the field through all the other players. (D) This must have been quite a sight! (E) When Maniac reached the soccer field, he punted the ball into Hand's outstretched hands.

Sentence C

Sentence B

Sentence E

Sentence D

★★★★★

I have purchased SEVERAL resources for my Maniac Magee Unit, and I won't buy anymore because I finally found what I was looking for in this resource. I love the questions in the comprehension packet that tie in directly with our ELA standards, and the higher DOK vocabulary questions. Excellent resource. Thank you!

-Beth D.

★★★★★

I bought this because of the ability to use this resource digitally. This resource provides Google Slide activities and Boom Card activities you can share with your students. The information on the slides and cards directly related to curricular goals. Great purchase!

-Heather M.

★★★★★

I absolutely love this resource. This is the 2nd literature unit I have from Gay Miller and I am on the way to purchase more. The higher level thinking comprehension questions, the grammar connections, and the vocabulary activities have been great learning tools in my classroom. My students still remember the vocabulary words we learned from a previous unit of hers that we did earlier in the year. The games are engaging and connect to what they are learning. I would highly recommend this to anyone who wants a substantial study of a great book. Like I said, I'm off to buy more of her units!

-Sarah C I.

★★★★★

My students benefited greatly from this unit. I have always loved the book and this resource had everything needed to enhance my student's reading experience. Thank you !

-Donna S.

★★★★★

I have truly enjoyed this book. It has given me so many ideas and "starting points" to use with my students. They have loved this book and the activities that have gone along with it.

— Jayla P.

# 19 CONSTRUCTED WRITING PROMPTS

**Chapters 1-2 - Constructed Response - Cause and Effect**

Several events in Maniac's early life have effects on his behavior. For each cause named list its effect.

Maniac's parents are killed in a trolley accident when he is three years old.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.

CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when drawing inferences from the text.  
 CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2 Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or sections of a particular story, drama, or poem.  
 CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or section fits into the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

**Chapters 1-2 - Constructed Response - Cause and Effect**

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Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.

**Chapters 1-2 - Constructed Response - Cause and Effect (Answer Key)**

Several events in Maniac's early life have effects on his behavior. For each cause named list its effect.

Maniac's parents are killed in a trolley accident when he is three years old. → Maniac goes to live with his Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics. → Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot will not get a divorce. They live together with two of everything, so they do not have to see each other.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium. → Maniac has had enough of his aunt and uncle's behavior. With a scream, he leaves, never to return.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died. → After a year of running, Maniac stops.

CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.  
 CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2 Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or sections fit together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.  
 CCSS:ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

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Full Page Answer Keys

**Chapters 1-2- Constructed Response - Cause and Effect**

Several events in Maniac's early life have effects on his behavior. For each cause named list its effect.

**CAUSE** - Maniac's parents are killed in a trolley accident when he is three years old.      **EFFECT** - Type answer here.

**CAUSE** - Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.      **EFFECT** - Type answer here.

**CAUSE** - During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.      **EFFECT** - Type answer here.

**CAUSE** - Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.      **EFFECT** - Type answer here.

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with and without CCSS





# What are Boom Cards?

Boom Cards are digital task cards that students play on the Boom Learning Website.

They...

- ✓ are fully digital – require no printing, paper, ink, etc.
- ✓ may be used on all modern browsers
- ✓ are played on devices connected to the Internet
- ✓ can be used for student practice at no cost to you

When you purchase this novel study from TPT, you will receive special links to these Boom Cards. When you click on one of these links, you will be asked to sign into your account or create a free account at the Boom Learning Website. The special links in the paid resource let the Boom Learning site know you have purchased the deck. When you click the link, Boom Learning sends the Boom Deck to your Boom Library, so your students can access them. Students can play for free or data will be tracked for you with the Boom Learning Paid Subscription.

[Click here for a playable preview on Boom Learning.](#)

From which point of view is *Maniac Magee* written?

second person point of view - The author describes events as if they are happening to you. The reader is a participant in the action of this story.

third-person limited point of view - The narrator follows Maniac and only reveals his thoughts.

first-person point of view - The author tells the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.

third-person omniscient - The narrator knows details about all the characters.

The reader can make all of the following conclusions after reading Chapters 1-5 except---

Maniac is good at taking care of himself.

Maniac doesn't know that he is supposed to be afraid of 803 Oriole Street.

Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan never found Maniac after he ran away.

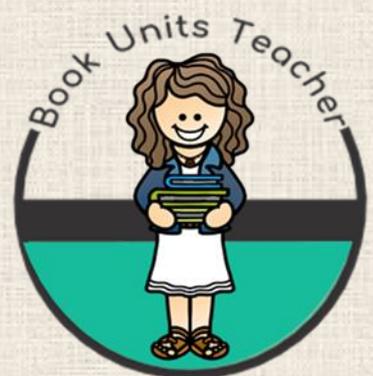
Maniac's favorite book is a story about the Children's Crusade.

# Maniac Magee

## Novel Study Samples



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**Thank you for  
downloading this novel  
study sample.**

**On the next pages, you will find the following pages  
from the unit including:**

- **Table of Contents for the Digital + Printable Version**
- **Lesson Plans at a Glance for the Full Unit**

### **FREE SAMPLE PAGES**

**The First Reading Selection plus Answer Keys  
(These pages are found in all versions of this unit.)**

- **Vocabulary Practice**
- **Comprehension Questions**
- **Constructed Response Writing Prompt  
(with and without the Common Core  
Standards)**



**Are you wondering what other novel  
studies I have available? You can see  
the complete list [here](#).**

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# Lesson Plans at a Glance

Read	Vocabulary	Vocabulary Practice Book	Comprehension	Constructed Response Question	Skill Practice
Chapters 1-5	maniac suffice	Page 1	Chapters 1-5	>Cause and Effect >Character Traits	Prefixes Organizers non- inter-
Chapters 6-11	allergy finicky	Page 2 Page 3 (Review)	Chapters 6-11	>Summarizing >Comparing Characters	Suffixes Organizers -less -ment
Chapters 12-16	grates solitude	Page 4	Chapters 12-16	>Dialect >Setting	Prefix and Suffix I Have, Who Has
Chapters 17-21	ranting contortions	Page 5 Page 6 (Review)	Chapters 17-21	>Character Change >Problem & Solution Chain	Root Word Organizers ped pod hypo sub
Chapters 22-26	rickety repertoire	Page 7	Chapters 22-26	>Point of View >Mood	Root Word BINGO
Chapters 27-32	preposterous languished	Page 8 page 9 (Review)	Chapters 27-32	>Timeline >Course of Action	Figurative Language Organizer & Foot Idioms Activity
Chapters 33-36	replicas desolation	Page 10	Chapters 33-36	>Comparing Settings >Figurative Language	Context Clues Organizer & Activities
Chapters 37-41	feats extort	Page 11 Page 12 (Review)	Chapters 37-41	> Characters >Figurative Language	Writing Titles Organizer, Lesson, and Activity
Chapters 42-46	gauntlet illusion	Pages 13-14 pages 15-16 (Review)	Chapters 42-46	>Theme > Story Map	Conjunction Organizer & Activity
	Vocabulary Test			> Comparing the Book to the Movie >Comparing Books	Synonym/ Antonym Organizer Analogy Activity

## Vocabulary Review

Match the correct vocabulary word from column two to the sentence it completes in column one by writing the letter associated with the word in front of its sentence.

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. _____ The magician performed one --- after another.                                | a. replicas   |
| 2. _____ Walking through historic Savannah on a holiday feels like running the ---.   | b. desolation |
| 3. _____ On our trip out west, we saw --- of Native American dwellings at Mesa Verde. | c. feat       |
| 4. _____ Making a perfect score on Mr. Jones's test is a --- few can achieve.         | d. extorted   |
| 5. _____ The early pioneers had to travel through miles of --- to reach California.   | e. gauntlet   |
| 6. _____ The robber --- jewels from all the ladies at the gathering.                  | f. illusion   |



## Chapters 1 – 5

1. Is **suffice** used correctly in the sentences below? True or False

\_\_\_\_\_ Cereal and milk will **suffice** for dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ He looked nice, but normally he would have worn a **suffice** for the occasion.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Suffice** to say, he was the fastest runner in three counties.



2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **maniac**.

sane	lunatic	loony
rational	nutcase	commonsensical
freak	wise	mental case
normal	madman	sound



3. "Suffice to say" or "suffice it to say" are idioms dating back to the 1300's. The idiom means it is enough to say this and no more. Write a sentence using this idiom.

---



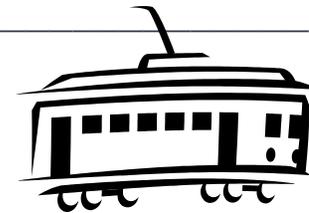
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## Vocabulary Review

Match the correct vocabulary word from column two to the sentence it completes in column one by writing the letter associated with the word in front of its sentence.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. ____ <b>f</b> ____ The magician preformed one --- after another.                                | a. replicas   |
| 2. ____ <b>e</b> ____ Walking through historic Savannah on a holiday feels like running the ---.   | b. desolation |
| 3. ____ <b>a</b> ____ On our trip out west, we saw --- of Native American dwellings at Mesa Verde. | c. feat       |
| 4. ____ <b>c</b> ____ Making a perfect score on Mr. Jones's test is a --- few can achieve.         | d. extorted   |
| 5. ____ <b>b</b> ____ The early pioneers had to travel through miles of --- to reach California.   | e. gauntlet   |
| 6. ____ <b>d</b> ____ The robber --- jewels from all the ladies at the gathering.                  | f. illusion   |



## Chapters 1 – 5

1. Is **suffice** used correctly in the sentences below? True or False

\_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ Cereal and milk will **suffice** for dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ He looked nice, but normally he would have worn a **suffice** for the occasion.

\_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **Suffice** to say, he was the fastest runner in three counties.



2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **maniac**.

sane	<b>lunatic</b>	<b>loony</b>
rational	<b>nutcase</b>	commonsensical
<b>freak</b>	wise	<b>mental case</b>
normal	<b>madman</b>	sound



3. "Suffice to say" or "suffice it to say" are idioms dating back to the 1300's. The idiom means it is enough to say this and no more. Write a sentence using this idiom.

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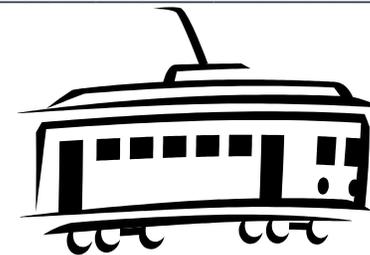
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---



# Maniac Magee ~ Chapters 1-5

1. **Chapter 1** can best be described as ---.

- a. an insight into Maniac's personality
- b. details about Maniac's appearance
- c. an explanation of why Maniac ran away from home
- d. background information about the East and West Sides of Hector Street

3. From which **point of view** is *Maniac Magee* written?

- a. first-person point of view – The author tells the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.
- b. third-person limited point of view - The narrator follows Maniac and only reveals his thoughts.
- c. second person point of view - The author describes events as if they are happening to you. The reader is a participant in the action of this story.
- d. third-person omniscient - The narrator knows details about all the characters.

5. Select the correct answer inside the set of brackets.

**The author, Jerry Spinelli, uses a lot of [hyperbole, scientific facts, onomatopoeia, historical details] in *Maniac Magee*.**

Give one example.

---

---

---

7. Which question does the reader NOT know the answer to after reading the first five chapters of *Maniac Magee*?

- a. How does Maniac survive living on his own?
- b. What is Maniac good at doing?
- c. What does Maniac want from Amanda Beale?
- d. What happened to cause Maniac to run away?



2. A good title for **Chapters 2-5** could be ---.

- a. Getting Into Trouble
- b. Maniac's First Day at East End
- c. Meet Amanda Beale
- d. A Football Star in the Making

4. The reader can make all of the following conclusions after reading Chapters 1-5 except--.

- a. Maniac is good at taking care of himself.
- b. Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan never found Maniac after he ran away.
- c. Maniac's favorite book is a story about the Children's Crusade.
- d. Maniac doesn't know that he is supposed to be afraid of 803 Oriole Street.

6. Which sentence does not belong?

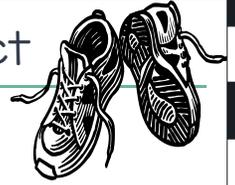
(A) The quarterback, Brian Denehy, threw a sixty-yarder to James "Hands" Down. (B) Before the ball could reach Hands, Maniac caught it. (C) Maniac ran up the field through all the other players. (D) This must have been quite a sight! (E) When Maniac reached the soccer field, he punted the ball into Hand's outstretched hands.

- a. Sentence B
- b. Sentence C
- c. Sentence D
- d. Sentence E

8. How does the setting shape the plot?

- a. Maniac goes through school property even though he hasn't attended school in over a year.
- b. Maniac runs away from Hollidaysburg and ends up in Two Mills 200 miles away.
- c. Maniac goes to the East End, a neighborhood where only African Americans live. There he stands out because he is the only Caucasian.
- d. Maniac was born in an ordinary house in Bridgeport.

# Chapters 1-2 ~ Constructed Response - Cause and Effect



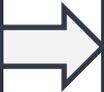
Several events in Maniac's early life have effects on his behavior. For each cause named list its effect.

Maniac's parents are killed in a trolley accident when he is three years old.



Blank lined area for writing the effect of the first cause.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.



Blank lined area for writing the effect of the second cause.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.



Blank lined area for writing the effect of the third cause.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.



Blank lined area for writing the effect of the fourth cause.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5](#) Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5](#) Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

# Bonus Constructed Response Question

**Themes in Maniac Magee**

Proof	Theme	Proof
<p>The town is divided into two halves. The citizens do not cross from one side to the other. Each side is afraid of the other.</p> <p>Maniac is told to go home. He "doesn't belong" on the East End.</p>	<p>race prejudice</p>	<p>The McNabs build a cement fort to keep African Americans from invading.</p>
<p>Maniac stands up for himself repeatedly against bullies.</p> <p>Maniac lives with the buffalo at the zoo.</p>	<p>courage</p>	<p>Maniac goes to the East End of town.</p> <p>Maniac performs all sorts of feats to keep the McNabs in school.</p>

**BOOK UNITS TEACHER**

This anchor chart pairs with a constructed response question. You will find a copy of this question along with the answer key in this packet.

Notice that this anchor chart is completed with sticky notes. Using sticky notes is a great way for students to add information to the chart. Simply give each student in the class a sticky note to complete and add to the chart. Later remove duplicate answers.

Using sticky notes also means that the anchor chart can be used over and over again with different groups of students

# Constructed Response - Theme

Select two themes that are present in *Maniac Magee*. After writing the theme in the center of the two charts give proof of these themes.

<b>Theme #1</b>	
<b>Proof</b>	<b>Proof</b>
<b>Theme #2</b>	
<b>Proof</b>	<b>Proof</b>

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.  
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2](#) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

# Answer Keys for Comprehension and Writings



# Maniac Magee ~ Chapters 1-5 Answer Key

1. **Chapter 1** can best be described as ---.

- a. an insight into Maniac's personality
- b. details about Maniac's appearance
- c. an explanation of why Maniac ran away from home
- d. **background information about the East and West Sides of Hector Street**

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- a. first-person point of view – The author tells the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.
- b. third-person limited point of view - The narrator follows Maniac and only reveals his thoughts.
- c. second person point of view - The author describes events as if they are happening to you. The reader is a participant in the action of this story.
- d. **third-person omniscient - The narrator knows details about all the characters.**

5. Select the correct answer inside the set of brackets.

**The author, Jerry Spinelli, uses a lot of [hyperbole, scientific facts, onomatopoeia, historical details] in *Maniac Magee*.**

Give one example.

- **Maniac keeps an eight-inch cockroach on a leash.**
- **Rats guard Maniac while he sleeps.**
- **Maniac runs away from his aunt and uncle's house at 11 years old and runs for a year.**

7. Which question does the reader NOT know the answer to after reading the first five chapters of *Maniac Magee*?

- a. **How does Maniac survive living on his own?**
- b. What is Maniac good at doing?
- c. What does Maniac want from Amanda Beale?
- d. What happened to cause Maniac to run away?



2. A good title for **Chapters 2-5** could be ---.

- a. Getting Into Trouble
- b. **Maniac's First Day at East End**
- c. Meet Amanda Beale
- d. A Football Star in the Making

4. The reader can make all of the following conclusions after reading Chapters 1-5 except--

- a. Maniac is good at taking care of himself.
- b. Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan never found Maniac after he ran away.
- c. **Maniac's favorite book is a story about the Children's Crusade.**
- d. Maniac doesn't know that he is supposed to be afraid of 803 Oriole Street.

6. Which sentence does not belong?

(A) The quarterback, Brian Denehy, threw a sixty-yarder to James "Hands" Down. (B) Before the ball could reach Hands, Maniac caught it. (C) Maniac ran up the field through all the other players. (D) This must have been quite a sight! (E) When Maniac reached the soccer field, he punted the ball into Hand's outstretched hands.

- a. Sentence B
- b. Sentence C
- c. **Sentence D**
- d. Sentence E

8. How does the setting shape the plot?

- a. Maniac goes through school property even though he hasn't attended school in over a year.
- b. Maniac runs away from Hollidaysburg and ends up in Two Mills - 200 miles away.
- c. **Maniac goes to the East End, a neighborhood where only African Americans live. There he stands out because he is the only Caucasian.**
- d. Maniac was born in an ordinary house in Bridgeport.

# Chapters 1-2 ~ Constructed Response - Cause and Effect

(Answer Key)



Several events in Maniac's early life have effects on his behavior. For each cause named list its effect.

Maniac's parents are killed in a trolley accident when he is three years old.

Maniac goes to live with his Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot will not get a divorce. They live together with two of everything, so they do not have to see each other.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.

Maniac has had enough of his aunt and uncle's behavior. With a scream, he leaves, never to return.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.

After a year of running, Maniac stops.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5](#) Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5](#) Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

## Constructed Response - Theme Answer Key

Select two themes that are present in *Maniac Magee*. After writing the theme in the center of the two charts give proof of these themes.

### Theme #1 – **abandonment**

**Being abandoned by people you love can negatively shape a person's outlook on life.**

#### Proof

- Maniac's parents and Grayson abandon Maniac when they pass away.
- Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot do not act as parents. They are too busy ignoring each other.

#### Proof

Maniac does not leave Russell and Piper even though he must stay in a dirty home under terrible conditions.

### Theme #2 **family/friendship**

**Everyone needs the love and support of friends and family.**

#### Proof

Jeffrey lacks a family. He spends the entire book looking for an address; however, he is really looking for a family.

#### Proof

Families:

- > Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot
- > Pickwells
- > Beales
- > McNabs

Friends

- > Amanda
- > Grayson
- > Mars Bar

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2](#) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

# Addendum

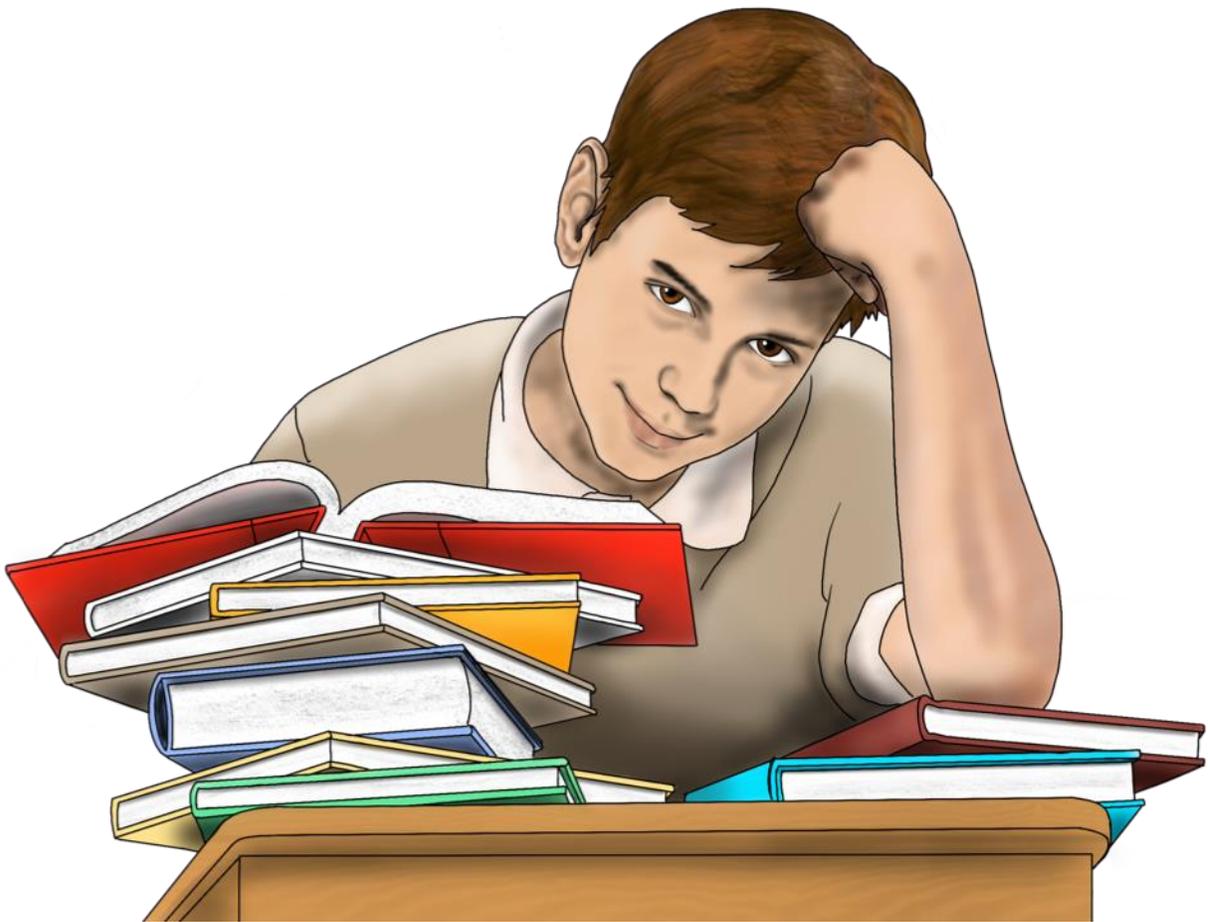
## Student Packet without Common Core State Standards

### **Important Update**

Originally 46 states adopted the Common Core State Standards. Many teachers have commented that they love having the standards on pages with constructed response writing prompts for accountability reasons. Now educational trends are changing. Many states have repealed Common Core and adopted their own state standards. To meet the needs of teachers both using and not using Common Core Standards, I have opted to provide the writing questions both with and without standards. Look at the addendum at the end of this unit for more details and the printable student packet without teaching standards.



To make creating a printable student packet easier, the comprehension and constructed response questions are both included in this section.



# Maniac Magee ~ Chapters 1-5

1. **Chapter 1** can best be described as ---.

- a. an insight into Maniac's personality
- b. details about Maniac's appearance
- c. an explanation of why Maniac ran away from home
- d. background information about the East and West Sides of Hector Street

2. A good title for **Chapters 2-5** could be ---.

- a. Getting Into Trouble
- b. Maniac's First Day at East End
- c. Meet Amanda Beale
- d. A Football Star in the Making

3. From which **point of view** is *Maniac Magee* written?

- a. first-person point of view - The author tells the story through the eyes of the protagonist, Jeffery 'Maniac' Magee.
- b. third-person limited point of view - The narrator follows Maniac and only reveals his thoughts.
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- c. Maniac's favorite book is a story about the Children's Crusade.
- d. Maniac doesn't know that he is supposed to be afraid of 803 Oriole Street.

5. Select the correct answer inside the set of brackets.

**The author, Jerry Spinelli, uses a lot of [hyperbole, scientific facts, onomatopoeia, historical details] in *Maniac Magee*.**

Give one example.

---



---



---

6. Which sentence does not belong?

(A) The quarterback, Brian Denehy, threw a sixty-yarder to James "Hands" Down. (B) Before the ball could reach Hands, Maniac caught it. (C) Maniac ran up the field through all the other players. (D) This must have been quite a sight! (E) When Maniac reached the soccer field, he punted the ball into Hand's outstretched hands.

- a. Sentence B
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7. Which question does the reader NOT know the answer to after reading the first five chapters of *Maniac Magee*?

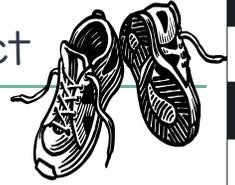
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# Chapters 1-2 ~ Constructed Response - Cause and Effect



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Five horizontal lines for writing the effect.

Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot are Catholics.

Five horizontal lines for writing the effect.

During the spring musicale, Uncle Dan and Aunt Dot sit on opposite sides of the auditorium.

Five horizontal lines for writing the effect.

Maniac arrives in Two Mills just across the river from Bridgeport where he lived before his parents died.

Five horizontal lines for writing the effect.

## Constructed Response - Theme

Select two themes that are present in *Maniac Magee*. After writing the theme in the center of the two charts give proof of these themes.

**Theme #1**

**Proof**

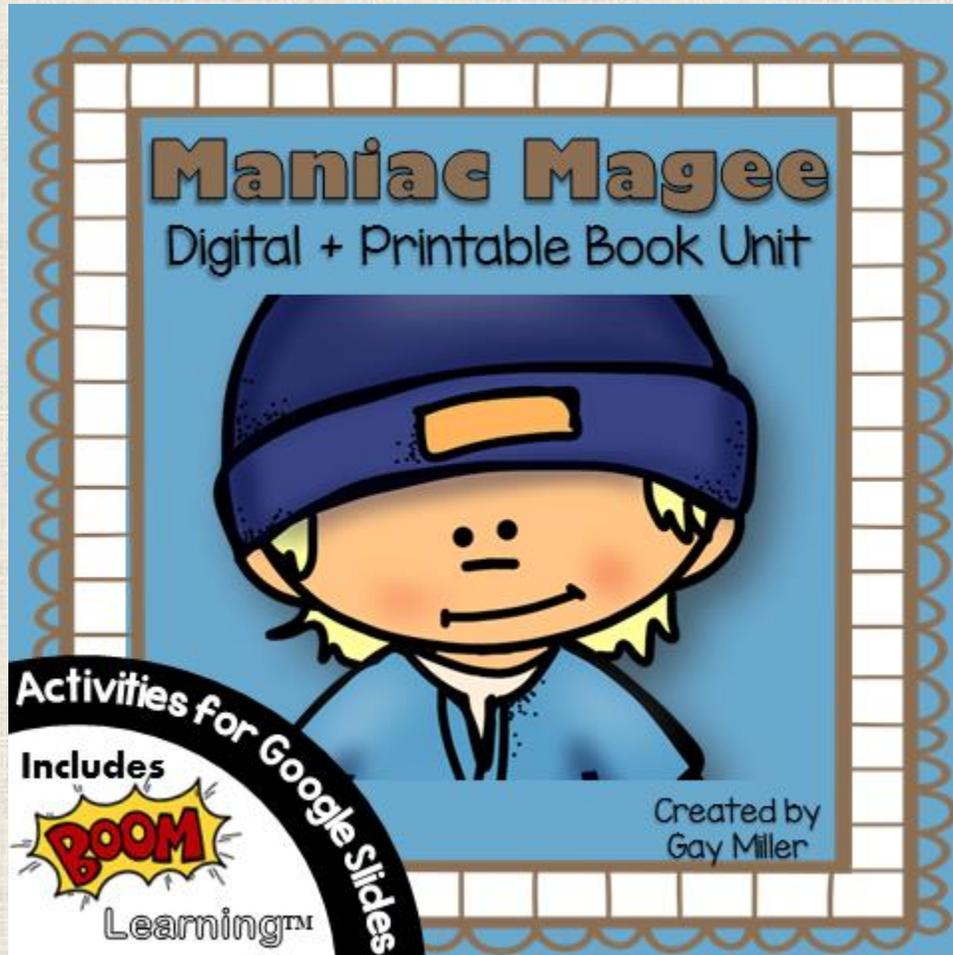
**Proof**

**Theme #2**

**Proof**

**Proof**

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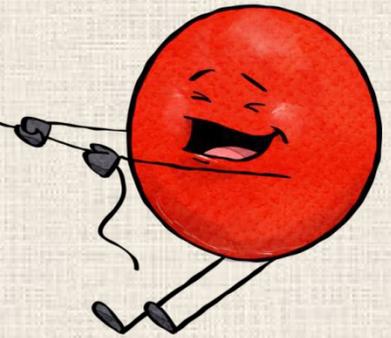
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