

Name: _____

Maniac Magee Comprehension Questions

Directions: As we read *Maniac Magee*, you are required to answer questions over the chapters. Make sure you use the book to help you answer the questions.

Chapters 1-5

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

1. How did Jeffrey Magee become an orphan?

- A. his parents gave him away
- B. his parents were killed in an airplane crash
- C. his parents were killed in a train crash
- D. he was born an orphan

2. How many years did Jeffrey live with his aunt and uncle before ran away?

- A. 10
- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 2

3. Why did Jeffrey run away?

- A. his aunt and uncle did not get along
- B. his aunt and uncle didn't want him anymore
- C. he turned 18 years old
- D. he wanted to tour the world

4. What is the time Jeffrey was gone between Hollidaysburg and Two Mills called?

- A. The Slowest Year
- B. The Long Year
- C. The Lost Boy
- D. The Lost Year

5. How many miles is there between Two Mills and Hollidaysburg?

- A. 150
- B. 200
- C. 52
- D. 100

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapters 1-5

6. What happened to Maniac's parents?

7. What is Maniac's real name?

8. Why did Jeffrey scream at Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan during the musical at school?

9. Who is the first person to talk to Maniac after he ran away?

10. Two Mills is divided. Tell how the town is divided.

11. In your own words, tell what happened in chapter 4.

Chapters 6-9

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How many children were in the Pickwell family?
2. What did the mystery dinner guest do that angered the Pickwell children and caused them to blink and squint?
3. Who is John McNabb? What does he look like?
4. In chapter 7, what was so unusual about the baseball game?
5. How did Jeffery get his nickname?
6. Why did McNab's group stop at Hector Street?

Extension Activity:

Choose one of the following activities:

1. Write a story about Maniac's "Lost Year." Use exaggeration to describe one exciting event that might have happened to him before he arrived in Two Mills.
2. In a paragraph, write about a nickname you have had during your life. Explain who gave you the nickname, what it meant, and whether or not you like it. This must be at least five sentences.
3. Describe a place in your community that is similar to Finsterwald's backyard. Why are the neighborhood kids afraid of it? What stories have you been told about this place?

Please complete the activity on a separate piece of a paper. Title your paper *Maniac Magee: 1-9*. Highlight which activity you selected.

Chapters 10-14

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What did Maniac do that was not acceptable?
2. Why do you think Mars Bar Thompson called Maniac “Fish belly?”
3. Who stopped Mars Bar Thompson and Maniac from fighting?
4. How did Mr. Beale know that Maniac didn’t live where he said he did?
5. List 5 chores Maniac did at the Beale’s house.
6. What did Mrs. Beale have the luxury of doing with Maniac around?
7. Why do you think kids get nicknames on the streets?

Review: Chapters 6-14

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

1. After Jeffrey eats at the Pickwell’s, the children follow him outside and find him running:
 - A. the cinders along the track
 - B. the wooden ties
 - C. the steel rails
 - D. the side of the road

2. McNab had the greatest fastball. Jeffrey hit every ball he threw to him, so McNab went and got _____ to pitch.

- A. toad
- B. turtle
- C. baby chick
- D. frog

3. Which one of the following did not help Jeffrey become known as “Maniac”?

- A. intercepting the Denehy pass and punting back
- B. rescuing Arnold Jones from Finsterwald’s back yard
- C. yelling “Talk, Talk” and running away
- D. hitting McNab’s fastball and bunting frogball

4. Where is Maniac living?

- A. moose shed at Elmwood Park Zoo
- B. deer shed at Elmwood Park Zoo
- C. oxen shed at Elmwood Park Zoo
- D. fox shed at Elmwood Park Zoo

5. John McNab got so mad, he wanted to punish Maniac. He and his gang, “The Cobras” did what?

- A. beat him up
- B. chased him out of town
- C. threw him in Finsterwald’s backyard
- D. chased him into the black side of town

6. Mars Bar Thompson confronted Maniac. He offered him a bite of his candy bar. When Maniac took a bite, there was dead silence on the street. Why?

- A. Maniac dropped the candy bar
- B. Mars Bar never offered anyone a bite
- C. people don’t eat after each other especially white/black at this time
- D. Maniac and Mars Bar were not friends

7. Maniac was trying to fix the torn page of the book Amanda had let him borrow. Amanda sees Mars Bar with Maniac and her torn book. Why is she so upset?

- A. her little brother and sister tear up everything of hers they can get a hold of
- B. Mars Bar always tears her books up
- C. she only has a few books
- D. Maniac promised to take care of it

8. The Beale's invite Maniac to stay. Before he can sleep, he must:

- A. take a bath
- B. go out to get his address
- C. say goodnight to Mr. & Mrs. Beale
- D. call his aunt & uncle

9. What was Maniac allergic to?

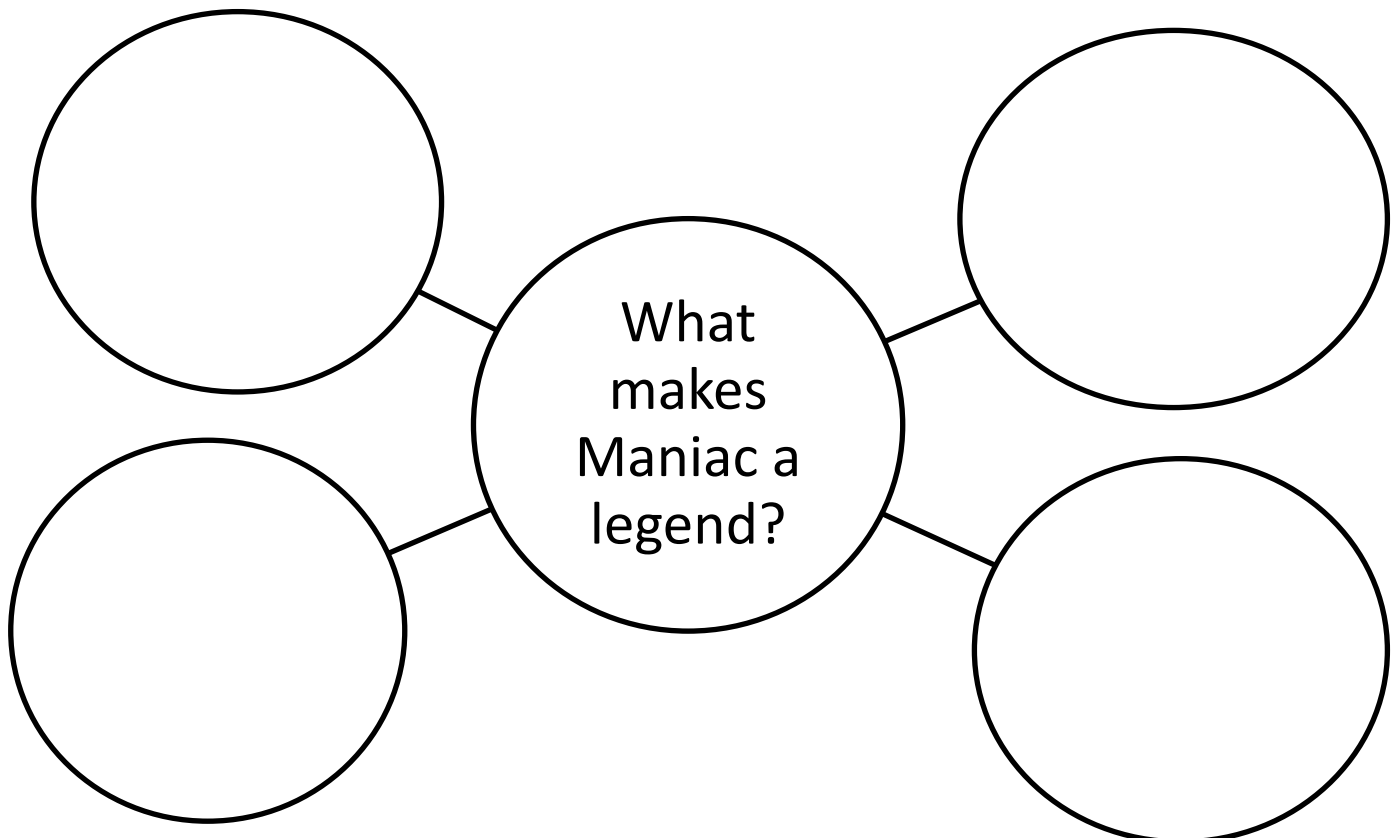
- A. eggs
- B. pizza
- C. milk
- D. fish

10. Everybody called Jeffrey "Maniac". When asked what his name was, he would reply, "My name is Jeffrey. You know me." Why?

- A. he didn't like the nickname
- B. he didn't want to lose the last thing he had from his parents
- C. he wanted to be called by his aunt & uncle's name
- D. he thought people were not listening to him.

The Legend of Maniac

In chapters 6-14, it is easy to see that Maniac is "larger than life". Maniac is a legend or a hero. **Complete the following graphic organizer to map-out the actions that make Maniac Magee a legendary character.**



Chapters 15-22

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why did Maniac love trash talk?
2. What did Mrs. Beale do when Maniac started talking street talk at home?
3. Give three reasons why some kids disliked Maniac?
4. An analogy is when you compare one thing to another thing. What was one of the analogies about the weather at the beginning of chapter 17?
5. Why did Amanda want Maniac to try to “overcome” Cobble’s Knot?
6. Why did Maniac leave the Beale’s house?

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

7. At the block party, an old man calls Maniac something. What does he call him?
 - A. thief
 - B. lion
 - C. whitey
 - D. snake
8. What is written on the side of the Beale’s house?
 - A. Whitey go home.
 - B. Fishbelly go home
 - C. Lion go home.
 - D. Thief go home

8. What does Amanda think will make Maniac popular with everyone in East End?

- A. Cobble's Knot
- B. going back to West End
- C. reading more books
- D. eating the most pizza

9. What was the prize for untangling Cobble's Knot?

- A. one free candy bar a week for a year
- B. one free pizza a week for a year
- C. one free soda a week for a year
- D. one free ice cream for a week for a year

10. How long did it take Maniac to untangle Cobble's Knot?

- A. until lunchtime
- B. until dinnertime
- C. until the next morning
- D. until the next night

11. What had Hester and Lester torn up for confetti?

- A. newspaper
- B. magazine
- C. encyclopedia c
- D. encyclopedia a

12. Where did Maniac walk when he left town?

- A. East side of street
- B. West side of street
- C. middle of the road

Extension Activity:

Choose one of the following activities:

1. Draw a detailed map of Two Mills. Include important places from the story and be sure to label the places and streets. Also, make sure you include a compass rose.
2. Pretend you are newspaper reporter. Write an article describing the events that occurred on the day Maniac untied Cobble's Knot and then ran out of town. Give the article an exciting headline.
3. Imagine that Maniac had time to leave Amanda a note before running away. Write what you think he might have wanted to say to her.

Please complete the activity on a separate piece of a paper. Title your paper, *Maniac Magee: 10-22*. Highlight which activity you selected.

Chapters 23-32

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What has Grayson done that amazed Maniac?
2. What did Maniac need to have in his hands when he was listening to Grayson's stories?
3. What did Grayson want Maniac to teach him?
4. Why did Maniac want paint?
5. What was the last present Grayson gave to Maniac?
6. Why did Maniac start running again?

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

7. Where did Maniac run to?

- A. Bridgeport
- B. Elmwood Park Zoo
- C. Aunt Dot

8. Why would Maniac not go to school?

- A. he didn't have a ride to school
- B. he didn't know anyone
- C. he didn't have a home

9. Why would Maniac not go stay at the YMCA with Grayson?

- A. he didn't like Grayson
- B. he thought he was bad luck to people around him
- C. he did not like the YMCA

10. Why did Grayson never make it to the major leagues?

- A. he was washing dishes during the big game
- B. he struck out Willie Mays
- C. he pitched his worst game in front of the scouts

11. What did Manic do with the money Grayson gave him?

- A. saved it for Christmas
- B. bought Krimpets
- C. bought books

12. What did Grayson want Maniac to do for him?

- A. teach him to write
- B. teach him to read
- C. teach him Spanish

14. What was the first book Grayson read?

- A. The Story of Babar
- B. Mike Mulligan's Steam Shovel
- C. The Little Engine That Could

15. Why did Maniac paint 101 outside his door?
- A. because he felt at home there
 - B. because he felt like painting
 - C. because he just ate
16. What was the name of the book Maniac gave Grayson for Christmas?
- A. The Little Engine That Could
 - B. The Story of Babar
 - C. The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays
17. What was the most important thing Grayson gave Maniac for Christmas?
- A. his baseball glove
 - B. butterscotch krimpets
 - C. a baseball
18. Why did Grayson leave Maniac?
- A. he moved back to the YMCA
 - B. he moved in with his son
 - C. he got sick
 - D. he died

Extension Activity:

Choose one of the following activities:

1. Make a Christmas card that Maniac could have sent to friends from his new home with Grayson. Decorate it with pictures and write a message signed with Maniac's name.
2. Read *The Little Engine That Could*, the first book Maniac taught Grayson to read. Write a paragraph telling what the book might mean to both Grayson and Maniac. How are they both like the little engine?
3. Write about one your favorite sports heroes. Describe what this person means to you and what character traits he or she has that you admire.

Please complete the activity on a separate piece of a paper. Title your paper, *Maniac Magee: 23-32*. Highlight which activity you selected.

Chapters 33-39

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

1. Maniac heard voices in another of the log cabins. What did he do?
 - A. stayed in his cabin
 - B. checked the other cabins

2. Where were Piper and Missing Tooth running away to?
 - A. Texas
 - B. Mexico
 - C. Las Vegas

3. Piper and Missing Tooth were little brothers of who?
 - A. Amanda
 - B. Mars Bar
 - C. John McNab

4. What was unusual about the McNab house?
 - A. steel front door
 - B. hole from 2nd to 1st story
 - C. had a cellar

5. Russell and Piper now went to school and began to feel important. What made them feel important?
 - A. their brother was coming to see them
 - B. the good grades they were making
 - C. the attention they got because of Maniac

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

6. What was the last thing Maniac did to the band shelter? Why did he do it?

7. Maniac crawled into one of the cabins in Valley Forge. What did he decide he would do there?

8. Why were the two children in Valley Forge?
9. Who turned out to be the brother of the two young boys?
10. Who did Maniac race? Why? Who won?
11. Why are the McNabs building a “pillbox”?
12. Why did Maniac leave the McNabs?

Chapters 40-46

Please read the following questions and circle the correct answer.

1. What was the most perilous challenge Russell and Piper gave Maniac to do?
 - A. kiss the American bison baby
 - B. go into East Side
 - C. knock on Finsterwald’s door
2. When Maniac raced Mars Bar, he caused more trouble, and Mars Bar now hated Jeffrey Magee. Why?
 - A. he disgraced him by running backwards
 - B. he disgraced him by skipping the last yards
 - C. he disgraced him by hopping the last yards

3. Why did Maniac get mad at Russell and Piper?

- A. they got his baseball
- B. they got Amanda's book
- C. they got Grayson's glove

4. Why did Maniac start sleeping in people's backyard's or on their porches?

- A. he thought they owed it to him
- B. he thought they would welcome him
- C. he thought they would not mind

5. In July, Maniac was running and felt as if someone was following him. Who turned out to be running at the same time?

- A. John McNab
- B. Mars Bar
- C. Amanda Beale

6. What happened to Russell?

- A. fell down a mountain of coal
- B. got hit by a car
- C. got stuck on the trestle in front of trolley

7. Why did Maniac not save Russell?

- A. he was afraid of the trestle
- B. he avoided the trestle because of his parent's deaths
- C. Mars Bar saved him first

8. Mars Bar brought Amanda to the buffalo pen and fusses at Maniac. She tells him what he will and won't do. All the while, Maniac says nothing because he knows he has finally found what?

- A. home and school
- B. friends and school
- C. home and family

Please read and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

9. Who did Maniac bring to the birthday party?

10. Who was following Maniac in the early morning hours?

11. Russell and Piper were playing what game? What happened to Russell?

12. What did Maniac do when he saw Russell?

13. At the end of the story, Maniac finally gets a home. Explain what happens.

Extension Activity:

Choose one of the following activities:

1. Draw a four-frame cartoon strip that shows one Maniac Magee's amazing feats. Write short descriptions at the bottom of each frame to tell a story. Add dialogue balloons for each character's words. When you have finished, color your cartoon strip.

2. Make a board game called *Maniac Magee*. Use settings from the story for the places on the board. Create a variety of "good luck" and "bad luck" cards based on the incidents or characters from the book. Make the goal of the game to reach "home" or the Beale house.

Highlight which activity you selected.