

How to print this booklet

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Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
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Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Maniac Magee

Author:

Jerry Spinelli

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

Why is Cobble's Knot such a big challenge, and what does Maniac's success mean to the town?

Example answer: I think Cobble's Knot is such a big challenge because many people have tried to untie it and failed. It is almost like a legend in the town, so everyone wants to see what will happen. When Maniac unties it, people are amazed because he does something that seemed impossible. It makes him seem even more special, but it also puts more attention on him.

How to Answer (continued)

Why is it important that Maniac teaches Grayson to read, and how does it change their friendship?

Example answer: I think it is important because Grayson has wanted to read for a long time, but he never got the help he needed. Maniac is patient with him and treats him like he can learn. Their friendship changes because they are not just helping each other survive anymore. They become like family because they share time, trust, and pride.

Why is the ending a hopeful one for Maniac, Amanda, and the idea of home?

Example answer: I think the ending is hopeful because Maniac finally stops running away from people who care about him. Amanda helps him see that he does not have to be alone. The ending shows that a home is not just a building, but a place where people want you and stand by you. It makes me feel like Maniac may finally belong.

Chapter 1

How does Jeffrey's life change after his parents die, and what does this help you understand about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

Why is the ending a hopeful one for Maniac, Amanda, and the idea of home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

What does Amanda understand about Maniac that other people might miss?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Why do you think Jeffrey finally runs away during the school program, and what was he really asking the adults to do?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

When Jeffrey meets Amanda Beale, what do you notice about the way he talks to her and treats her books?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

How does Mars Bar's experience with another family help change his thinking?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

What signs show that Maniac still wants a home, even when he acts as if he can live anywhere?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Amanda worries about lending Jeffrey a book. What does this show about how important books are to her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What do Jeffrey's first adventures in Two Mills show about his unusual talents and courage?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

Why does Maniac pull away from people again after the trestle incident?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

How does Mars Bar's action at the trestle change the way you see him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Why are people so surprised by Jeffrey's running, and how does this help build the legend of Maniac?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

How does Jeffrey's encounter with John McNab on the baseball field change the way kids see him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

When Maniac freezes near the trolley tracks, what do you learn about the memories he carries?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How does the meeting between Mars Bar and the McNabs show how hard it is to fight prejudice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What does the Finsterwald backyard scene show about Jeffrey compared with the other children?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Why do you think Jeffrey is given the nickname Maniac, and does the name seem fair?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Why might Maniac want Mars Bar and the McNabs to meet, and what risks could come from that?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What do Piper and Russell teach Maniac about trying to change someone else's life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

When Maniac meets Mars Bar Thompson, how do their actions show tension between them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does the torn page from Amanda's book create a problem for Maniac?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

How does Maniac use deals or challenges to try to help Piper and Russell?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

Why does Maniac stay with the McNab boys even though their home is messy and troubling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What makes the Beale family feel like a possible home for Maniac?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How do Hester and Lester react to Maniac, and what does their reaction show about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

What does the pillbox in the McNab house reveal about fear and racism?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What is your first impression of the McNab house, and how is it different from the homes Maniac has known?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What details show that Maniac is starting to belong in the Beale house?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What does Maniac learn about the way people in Two Mills think about the East End and West End?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

What does Maniac's rescue of Piper and Russell show about his courage and his painful memories?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Why do you think Maniac starts wandering again after losing Grayson?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How do John McNab and the Cobras treat Maniac, and what might their behavior be based on?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

Why is the message on the Beales' house so hurtful, and how does it affect Maniac?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How does Maniac react to Grayson's death, and what does that tell you about his grief?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which Christmas gift or moment between Maniac and Grayson feels most meaningful, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How does Maniac try to handle the unfairness and anger around him in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What does Amanda's argument with Maniac show about both of their feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does Grayson's reading show that people can grow and learn at any age?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What makes Maniac and Grayson's Thanksgiving special, even though it is not fancy?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Why is Cobble's Knot such a big challenge, and what does Maniac's success mean to the town?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Why does Maniac decide to leave the Beales, even though he cares about them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Why is it important that Maniac teaches Grayson to read, and how does it change their friendship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

How does Grayson's baseball story help you understand his dreams and disappointments?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

What does Maniac's life at the zoo show about how lonely and tough he is?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

How does Grayson's kindness begin to change Maniac's situation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

What do Maniac and Grayson's questions about each other's lives show about prejudice and learning?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
