



## Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

**Required Novel:** *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

**Required Assignment:** Read *Maniac Magee* and complete the question packet below. Students should be prepared to discuss the novel during the first week of school.

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The purpose of the HCA Summer Reading Program is to engage students in classic and modern literature that encourages and promotes a life-long interest in reading for both purpose and enjoyment. Each novel is chosen based on the thematic connection to the first units studied in each grade level.

In middle school, students will place emphasis on the literary elements used in our daily literature. These elements provide insight and understanding that will further a student's comprehension of the novels he/she reads and the author's purpose for writing. **Upon returning to school, the students will use their chapter question/answer packet (below) for group discussions, completing plot diagrams, quizzes, and test/essay questions.**

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**Directions:** Complete the short answer chapter questions listed on the following pages. Students may give hand-written responses or typed responses. I STRONGLY encourage the students to type their responses. Many assignments/essays in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are required to be typed, so they need to sharpen their skills whenever possible. The more they practice typing, the more proficient they will become in this area. Please feel free to email me with questions. I will try to respond within 24 hours.

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## **SHORT ANSWER STUDY QUESTIONS for *Maniac Magee***

### Chapters 1-5

1. What was Maniac's real name?
2. With whom did Maniac live, and why? What was his life there like? How long did he live that way?
3. What happened the night of the musical?
4. Where did he go when he left Hollidaysburg? How long did it take him to get there?
5. What did people see and hear when they saw Maniac on his first day in town?
6. Who was the first person Maniac talked with? Describe their meeting.
7. Who lived in the East End? Who lived in the West End?
8. Describe Maniac's meeting with Brian Denehy and James "Hands" Down.
9. Describe what happened at Finsterwald's house.

### Chapters 6-11

1. Describe dinner at the Pickwell home. How did the children know it was time for dinner? How many family members ate there?
2. After dinner, Jeffrey ran somewhere. Where did he run? Why were the Pickwell kids surprised?
3. Describe John McNab. Why wasn't the rest of the league any match for him?
4. Describe the play between Jeffrey as batter and John McNab as pitcher.
5. How did Jeffrey get the name "Maniac"?
6. Where did Jeffrey sleep?
7. How did he like Amanda's book?
8. What did John McNab try to do to get even? What happened?
9. What unthinkable thing did Maniac do when he met Mars Bar Thompson? Why was it so unthinkable?
10. Describe the scene with Maniac's book.
11. What happened while Maniac was trying to find Amanda's house?

### Chapters 12-16

1. How did Maniac end up staying with the Beale family?
2. What was "the miracle on Sycamore Street"?
3. Describe some of the other changes in the Beale household.
4. What was Maniac's allergy?
5. How did Maniac feel about his new life?
6. How did the East End kids find out Jeffrey was "that Maniac kid?"
7. What was Jeffrey afraid of losing, and why?
8. How did the kids in the East End react to Maniac?
9. How was Maniac blind?
10. What did Manic think about skin color?

### Chapters 17-21

1. What happened to Maniac while the children were playing in the fire hydrant water?
2. What was on the wall of the Beales' house a few days later? How did the family react? How did Maniac react?
3. Amanda and Maniac had an argument. What did Amanda say that she felt sorry for?
4. Describe Cobble's Knot. Where was it? What was the prize for untying it?
5. Why did Amanda want Maniac to untie the knot?
6. Did Maniac untie the knot?
7. What did Maniac and Amanda discover about the confetti? What did Maniac do?
8. Describe the way Maniac walked out of town.

### Chapters 22-26

1. Where was Maniac living?
2. Who found Maniac? Where did they go? What did they do?
3. What did they do after Grayson bought the Krimpets?
4. Where did Maniac say he wanted to stay?
5. Grayson asked Maniac about school. What was Maniac's answer?
6. What kind of questions did Grayson ask Maniac?
7. What did Grayson invite Maniac to do, and what was Maniac's reply?
8. What did Maniac discover about Grayson's past?
9. How did Maniac and Grayson begin spending their afternoons?
10. How was Maniac keeping up with his education?
11. What did Grayson ask Maniac to do?

### Chapters 27-32

1. Maniac taught Grayson to read. When did they work? What kind of books did he use? What was difficult, and what was easy for Grayson?
2. What was the first book Grayson read? How did Maniac react?
3. How was the room different than when Maniac first moved in?
4. How did Maniac and Grayson spend Thanksgiving?
5. What did Maniac do with the paint?
6. What did they do at Christmas? Where was Grayson living?
7. What did they do on Christmas Day? What presents did they give each other?
8. What did Maniac do when he discovered Grayson was dead?
9. Describe the funeral.

### Chapters 33-37

1. Where did Maniac go? What did he do? What did he eat?
2. What happened whenever he crossed the bridge over the Schuylkill River?
3. What did Maniac do at Valley Forge?
4. Whom did Maniac meet at Valley Forge? What did he convince them to do? What did he discover about them?
5. Describe the McNab house.
6. Russell and Piper told Maniac they were getting ready to shoot at the enemy. Who was the enemy?
7. What deals did Maniac make with Russell and Piper? Did it work? Why or why not?
8. What were some of Maniac's heroic feats?
9. How did Maniac feel about these feats?
10. What was the most perilous challenge?

### Chapters 38-41

1. Describe the race. Who was in it? Who won? How did the winner feel? How did the loser feel?
2. Where did Maniac go after the race? What happened there?
3. What were the McNabs building, and why?
4. Where did Maniac go that night?
5. Why did he leave the McNabs' house?
6. Maniac went back for Piper's birthday party, and took a guest. Who was the guest? Why did Maniac bring him?
7. Describe dinner at the Pickwell house that same night. Who were the extra guests? How did the family react?
8. What did one of the guests do when the two of them got ready to cross Marshall Street?
9. How did Maniac's guest feel when they got to the party?

### Chapters 42-46

1. What present did Maniac take for Piper, and under what conditions could he have it?
2. What was George McNab's reaction to the guest?
3. One of the Cobras jumped through the hole from the second floor to the first. What happened after he jumped?
4. What miracle had happened while the boys were at the party?
5. Who started running with Maniac? Describe the way they ran.
6. Describe the meeting with Piper and Russell.
7. Two days later, Mars Bar visited Maniac and asked him why he didn't try to rescue Russell. What was Maniac's answer? What was Mars Bar's reaction?
8. What happened to Russell?
9. What did Mars Bar invite Maniac to do? What was Maniac's answer?
10. How did the story end?
11. How did Maniac feel at the end of the book?