

A Teaching Unit For Maniac Magee

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ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans



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Sample Packet for *Maniac Magee*

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Maniac Magee Teaching Unit
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The highlighted chapters are your FREE! Scroll down to print.

Maniac Magee

Chapter 5

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension

1. What happened to Arnold Jones?
2. Where did Maniac Magee put Arnold?

The Finsterwald's Backyard

Read the description of the Finsterwald's backyard on pages 16 - 17.

Find the metaphor in the description.

Jerry Spinelli's description of the Finsterwald's backyard is notable because of the metaphor used to describe it and the witty examples of those who dared not grace the place. Using this passage as a model, write a description of the Finsterwald's backyard, but describe it as if it were the nicest place in town, as if the Finsterwalds were the nicest people around.

Maniac Magee

Chapters 6 - 8

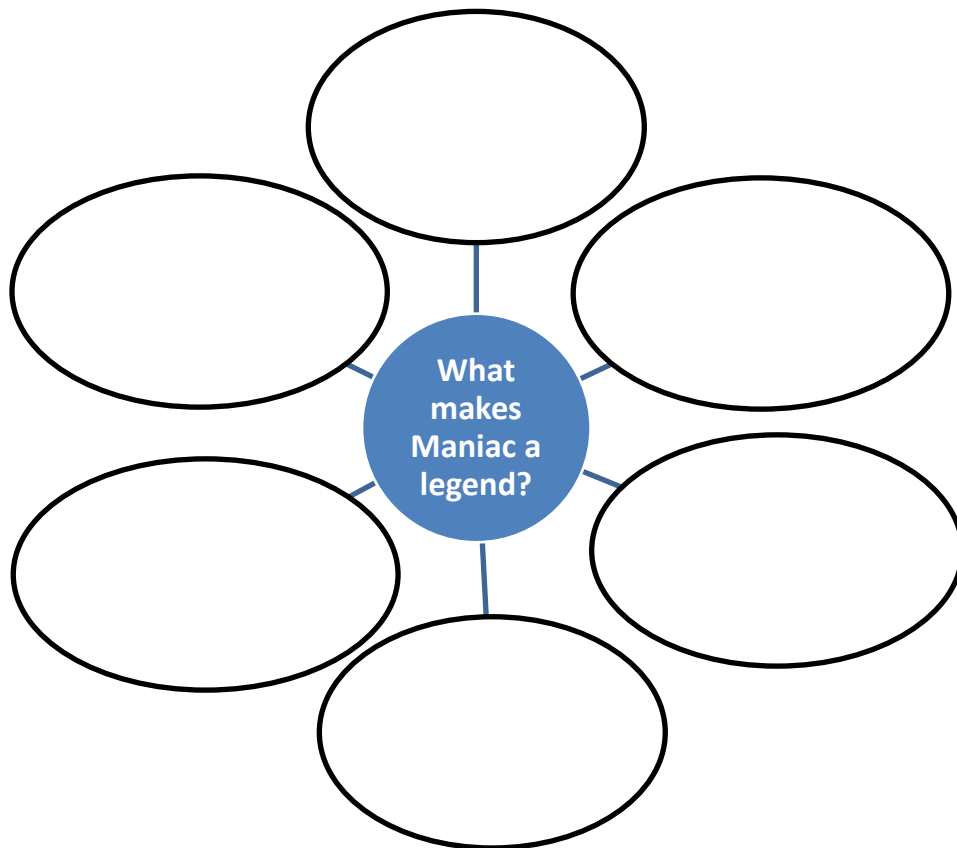
Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension

1. What did all of the Pickwell's eat around?
2. Where was Maniac Magee running that everyone else only walks?
3. Describe John McNab.
4. What did Maniac Magee do to the frog?
5. How did Maniac Magee get his nickname?

The Legend of Maniac In chapters six through eight, it is easy to see that Maniac is "larger than life". Maniac is a legend or a hero. Typically, a character who is a hero often begins life as a normal person, but is transformed into someone extraordinary by significant life events, often in response to social injustice, and sometimes in response to natural disasters. In Maniac's case, he is transformed in response to social injustice. His parents have died, and he is left to fend for himself. **Complete the following graphic organizer to map out the actions that make Maniac Magee a legendary character.**



Maniac Magee

Test on Part I

Name _____

Date _____

1. Who is telling the story of Manic Magee?
 - a. Maniac
 - b. Amanda
 - c. Aunt Dot
 - d. An unseen narrator
2. Why does Maniac Magee have to go and live with Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan?
 - a. His parents have given them temporary custody while they travel out of the country.
 - b. He is tired of living under his parents' strict rules.
 - c. His parents are killed in a trolley crash, and he is forced to go live with them.
 - d. His parents have moved and he lives with his aunt and uncle so he does not have to change schools.
3. Which of the following is **not** something that Maniac loves about living at the Beale's home?
 - a. Going to the fourth of July block party
 - b. attending church
 - c. walking Bow Wow
 - d. sharing the *A* encyclopedia with Amanda
4. Which of following best describes Maniac?
 - a. timid and hopeful
 - b. aggressive and mean
 - c. trustworthy and daring
 - d. sad and lonely
5. What is the author's main purpose for including the character of Hands Down in this novel?
 - a. to offer Maniac someone to talk with
 - b. to contrast Maniac with someone who is satisfied with his life
 - c. to help create Maniac Magee as a legend
 - d. to offer Maniac Magee a best friend
6. Which of the following does Maniac do that amazes Mrs. Beale?
 - a. takes baths
 - b. reads lots of books
 - c. keeps his room clean
 - d. sings
7. What does Maniac bunt to score a run on John McNab?
 - a. a frog
 - b. a curve ball
 - c. a candy bar
 - d. a pine cone

This is only a portion of the test. [Download this complete test and everything in the table of contents now!](#)

Thank you for previewing our sample packet for *Maniac Magee*. Download the entire [teaching unit for *Maniac Magee*](#) and you will have all of the handouts, activities, and tests listed in the table of contents.

Use these lessons immediately and for years to come!

Also, visit our website www.elacoreplans.com

We have tons of resources for ELA teachers including [novel units](#), [short story lessons](#), [writing activities](#), and [Common-Core bell ringer activities](#). You can print free samples from all of these online teaching materials!

Happy Teaching! ☺

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