

**Student Packet Answer Key***Maniac Magee*

(Page references refer to the page that the activity appears on in the student packet.)

**Realistic Elements, pp. 2-3**  
**Genre Lesson Independent Practice**

Sample realistic elements include:

- Characters are realistic and have believable dialogue.
- Maniac's parents have died in an accident.
- Maniac running away from home is realistic.

**Vocabulary Activity: One of These Words is Not Like the Others, p. 4**  
**Chapter 1 – Chapter 5**

1. correct; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe an error that was made.
2. lower; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe something that is elevated.
3. dissatisfy; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe an uproar.
4. peace; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe a
5. honorable; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe someone that is dishonorable.

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 5-6**  
**Chapter 1 – Chapter 5**

1. DC Jeffrey Magee probably never went back to school because he may have been embarrassed to go back after he screamed. He probably did not want to go back to living with his aunt and uncle.
2. DC The year was probably called "The Lost Year" because Jeffrey did not do much that year except run around.
3. FL c. Amanda, Jeffrey, and the suitcases stood still in the middle of the street while the people quickly passed by them.
4. DC Amanda knew that Jeffrey was not from the East End because he was white. White people did not often go to the East End, where blacks lived. The two groups of people lived in separate areas.
5. C When Jeffrey rescued Arnold Jones it shows that he is a caring person. He was concerned about making sure Arnold was safe rather than getting beat up by the high school students. This shows that he is a brave person.
6. C, P d. They hated each other, but would not get a divorce because they are Catholic. There was two of everything and they never did anything together.
7. S, C, P b. He is white and ran through the part of town where black people live.
8. C, P Maniac probably impressed the high school students because when he first encountered them, they threw Arnold into the forbidden Finsterwald's backyard. Maniac carried Arnold out of the backyard and then sat on Finsterwald's steps. This made Maniac seem cool and brave because no one sat on Finsterwald's steps.

**Vocabulary Activity: Four Square, p. 7**  
**Chapter 6 – Chapter 14**

1. Definition: to flinch or draw back in fear or disgust, Examples: Cringe when seeing blood, cringe in the dark; Non-examples: Confronting a fear, standing up to a bully
2. Definition: being or living alone, Examples: Going mountain climbing, visiting the desert; Non-examples: Surrounded by students in a classroom, being at a baseball game
3. Definition: a mark or flaw that makes something imperfect, Examples: A dent in a car, a scratched wood table, a spot on clothing; Non-examples: holiday decorations, getting dressed

**Student Packet Answer Key**

4. Definition: to come together as one; to combine, Examples: a group of students creating a club, mixing two shades of paint together to create a new color; Non-examples: to break something in half, seeds from a tree blowing in all directions

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 8-9****Chapter 6 – Chapter 14**

1. DC Maniac probably answered Mrs. Pickwell's dinner whistle because he was hungry. He probably saw all of the Pickwell kids and figured no one would notice another kid because there were some many children.
2. EI McNab is a very large twelve-year old. He is five feet eight inches tall and weighs over a hundred and seventy pounds.
3. C McNab is a very intimidating and mean person. He seems to scare the other kids, which allows him to get what he wants.
4. DC b. White and black people did not visit the opposite end of the town because they would be teased. Kids would run through the opposite end to avoid the confrontations.
5. C Mrs. Beale is a very caring, kind person. She does not care that Maniac is white and that she is black. She was more concerned about making sure Maniac was OK.
6. DC c. There are so many people at the table and they all assumed someone else knew Maniac.
7. Co/Co, C d. He felt confident at the beginning that he would strike Maniac out and mad at himself at the end that he could not strike Maniac out.
8. C, DC Maniac does not seem to like that he does not have a home. He tries to make the best of it by not having a home, but he really comes to lives and is comfortable when he is at the Beales. It is very important for him to have a place to call home.

**Relationship Roster, p. 10****Lesson 1 Independent Practice**

Answers will vary according to the specific relationships that students choose to focus on. Possible relationships include:

Maniac and Brian Denehy; Maniac and the Pickwells; Maniac and Mars Bar; Maniac and Mrs. Beale.

**Vocabulary Activity: Have You Ever?, p. 11****Chapter 15 – Chapter 21**

1. leered: looked with bad intentions; glanced sideways
2. contorted: violently twisted; deformed
3. foresight: looking forward, or seeing in advance
4. eons: a very long period of time
5. unbeknownst: without the knowledge of; not knowing
6. coot: a foolish and crotchety person

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 12-13****Chapter 15 – Chapter 21**

1. DC a. Maniac enjoyed just observing everyone around him live their life.
2. DC Maniac couldn't see "this color business" because he gave other people a fair chance. He did not judge people by their skin color, but by how they treated him. He also did not understand why people are called white or black as he felt there were many shades of skin colors.
3. C The man that told Maniac to "go back to your own kind" lived in the East End. He was an older man who spoke to Maniac at the block party. He had a deep and thick voice and called Maniac, "Whitey." He wore slippers, baggy pants, and a pajama top that had roosters on it. He had white, curly hair. He spoke loudly and yelled at Maniac to leave the East End.
4. EI b. She thought if he could do it, the entire community would love him and the people who did not want him there would allow him to stay.

**Student Packet Answer Key**

5. DC, C/E Maniac walked out of town because he was in the middle of the East End and the West End. As he was leaving, people were yelling and teasing him, but since he was in the middle, no one would cross the line. He did not need to run.
6. C, Co/Co b. He learns what it is like to be cared about and also about discrimination.
7. C, P d. Her "A" encyclopedia was all ripped up.
8. C Mars Bar hates Maniac Magee because Maniac is white and Mars Bar is black. He has grown up with the idea that he should hate all white people just because they are white.

**Textual Analysis Questions, p. 16**

1. ViC; c
2. EI; d
3. EI; b
4. EI; d
5. F/O; c
6. F/O; a
7. AP; d
8. MI; A better title for this passage would be "Segregation: Still Alive in the U.S."

**Vocabulary Activity: Opposite Meanings, p. 17**  
**Chapter 22 – Chapter 26**

1. fat, healthy, plump
2. sense, awareness, understanding
3. disregard, incomprehensible, bewilderment
4. clear up, explain, clarify
5. similar, alike

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 18-19**  
**Chapter 22 – Chapter 26**

1. EI b. He picked Maniac up, put him in his truck, and drove him to the baseball equipment room. He covered him with a blanket, introduced himself, and gave Maniac a cup of soup.
2. EI Grayson scraped a path of dirt from Maniac's arm because he wanted to check that Maniac was white. Maniac had just told Grayson that he lived on the East End. Grayson knew that only black people lived there and was surprised when Maniac told him he lived there because he was white.
3. EI Grayson was interested in learning about "them black people" because he did never visited a black person's home. He did not know that they are not any different then white people.
4. Pre Maniac and Grayson's relationship will probably grow. They already seem to care about each other and enjoy spending time with each other. They probably will continue to be friends.
5. EI Maniac used the money that Grayson gave him to buy old books from the library.
6. P, C d. Maniac decides to teach Grayson how to read and Grayson gives Maniac a place to stay.
7. PoV, AP b. The buffalo's perspective. To show what it was like to have Maniac in the pen.
8. P, C Maniac does not want to go to school until he has a home. He wants to have a place to call home to go to at night when school is out. He wants to be like everyone else with a home to go to after school.

**Predictions Chart Worksheet and Coming up Next . . . TV Screen, pp. 20-22**  
**Lesson 2 Independent Practice**

Answers will vary. Students should identify a big event or cliffhanger in the text, identify missing information and ask questions about what could happen next, access prior knowledge or experience to think about what could happen next, and then use details from the text to make a sound prediction.

**Student Packet Answer Key**

Possible events or cliffhangers in Chapters 24-26 that students can focus on for their predictions include:

Chapter 24: Cliffhanger-Grayson telling Maniac that he wanted to be a baseball player at the end of the chapter.

Chapter 25: The chapter ends with Grayson feeling like he has no purpose in life.

Chapter 26: Maniac teaches Grayson how to read.

**Vocabulary Activity: Questions, Reasons, Examples, p. 23****Chapter 27– Chapter 32**

1. languished: lose strength; feeble
2. throng: group crowded together
3. preposterous: absurd or ridiculous
4. ornery: stubborn
5. dispersed: scattered or separate
6. stoic: calm, unconcerned about pleasure or pain

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 24-25****Chapter 27– Chapter 32**

1. EI The adults in Grayson's life when he was younger did not treat him very well. His parents were often drunk and left him on his own. His teacher was not very encouraging or positive, saying that his class would never learn to read.
2. C a. He loved him.
3. DC Maniac wanted to cook for Grayson to show his appreciation. He probably also wanted to take care of him since Grayson had been helping him out.
4. DC Maniac painted numbers outside the Band Shell to show that he finally had an address and a home. It was very important for him to have an address and a home. When he painted the numbers, it represented that he had a place to call home.
5. DC After Maniac ran away from the funeral, Grayson was probably buried. The minister may or may not have showed up. It was probably a very short funeral.
6. DC d. The gifts showed that they really cared for each other since they were very thoughtful.
7. C c. Caring and kind.
8. C/E, TH Maniac runs away at the end of Chapter 32 because he has a hard time dealing with Grayson's death. He feels like Grayson was family to him and should be treated that way, but no one else was at the funeral. He does not want to admit that Grayson has died and he no longer has a home and a family with him. Other times Maniac has ran away include: Running away from his Aunt and Uncle because he does not like living with them; running away from the Pickwell family when they realize that no one knows who he is or why he is there; running away from McNab when McNab was not able to strike him out because he did not want to confront him; running away from the Beales after being teased by a man because he did not feel like he belonged.

**Plot Conflicts Worksheet, pp. 26-27****Lesson 3 Independent Practice**

Students should identify and record the following conflicts:

Chapter 21: Character vs. Self- Amanda is upset with herself because she left her encyclopedia out. Her "A" encyclopedia was torn up and used as confetti. Character vs. Self- Maniac is mad at himself for coming to East End because people make fun of him for living with the Beales and living on the East End.

Chapter 22: Character vs. Character-Maniac is hiding in the bushes from the East End kids.

Chapter 23: Character vs. Character-Maniac argues with Grayson about going to school. Character vs. Self-Maniac has a conflict with himself when Grayson asks him about school. He is upset because he wants to have a home before he goes to school.

Chapter 24: None

Chapter 25: Character vs. Self- Grayson has a conflict with himself for pitching poorly in the game against the Mud Hens.

**Student Packet Answer Key**

Chapter 26: None

Chapter 27: Character vs. Self and Character vs. Character-Grayson ran away when he was 15 because his teachers told him he could never learn to read. His parents often left him alone. He was upset with himself and the people in his life.

Chapter 28: None

Chapter 29: None

Chapter 30: None

Chapter 31: None

Chapter 32: Character vs. Self-Maniac has a hard time dealing with Grayson's death and runs away from the funeral.

**Vocabulary Activity: One of These Words is Not Like the Others, p. 28****Chapter 33 – Chapter 37**

1. accompanied; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe someone that does something without other people.
2. cheerful; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe someone who is gloomy, sad, and dejected.
3. civilization; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe places that are barren.
4. offering; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe ways that someone can plead for something.
5. freedom; The remaining words belong together because they all can be used to describe something with constraints.

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 29-30****Chapter 33 – Chapter 37**

1. DC c. He no longer considered this his home and was upset that Grayson died.
2. FL The sentence, "From high above, a tracing of his routes would have looked as hopelessly tangled as Cobble's Knot," means that if someone were to look at the routes where Maniac traveled it would have looked like a bunch of twists and turns, similar to the knot. Maniac went all over the place in many directions.
3. DC Maniac believed that no one else would orphan him because he did not feel like anyone else would want him. He also did not want to subject himself to any other families and potentially get hurt again. He purposely decided that he would not join another family so that he could avoid getting hurt again.
4. DC I can infer that Missing Tooth and Screecher are not very kind people by the language that they use. They do not care about hurting other people's feelings.
5. DC Maniac made up a story about McNab's stopball because he did not want to embarrass McNab in front of his brothers. He did not want McNab to be angry with him. He also thought that if he was kind to McNab, McNab would be kind back. It ultimately resulted in McNab inviting Maniac to his home.
6. C c. He is brave.
7. Co/Co, S b. It is very messy and no one tries to clean it up.
8. PRE, C/E Answers will vary, but should be based on text evidence. Possible predictions: Maniac will be welcomed back because he was able to untie Cobble's Knot; he will be teased and made fun of for returning to the neighborhood because he is white.

**What's the Theme? Worksheet, p. 31****Lesson 4 Independent Practice**

Answers will vary. Possible themes include: racism divides and hurts people; kindness brings people together.

**Student Packet Answer Key**

**Vocabulary Activity: Four Square, p. 32**

**Chapter 38– Chapter 43**

1. Definition: Hopeless, deserted, or miserable, Examples: Someone may feel forlorn after their friend moves or their pet dies; Non-examples: A family after learning they will have a baby, two friends spending time together
2. Definition: Cut off, left behind, or isolated, Examples: Climbing a mountain and getting stuck there during a storm, a rural area; Non-examples: A city, being surrounded by people
3. Definition: Frowning with displeasure, Examples: Scowling if sick, a child being told they do not have permission to do something; Non-examples: Going on vacation, spending time with friends and family
4. Definition: Joyful enthusiasm, Examples: Welcoming the army when they return from service, someone who has just won a race; Non-examples: Crying or being mad

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 33-34**

**Chapter 38– Chapter 43**

1. DC a. He was trying to scare Maniac away from the East End.
2. C Mars Bar's name-calling shows that he is not a kind person. He does not care if he hurts other people's feelings.
3. FL Just when the weather was getting nicer, it felt like March again. It was cold for another two weeks in April.
4. DC Maniac didn't help the McNabs when George asked him to "start luggin' these" because he did not want to be part of the so-called revolt. He thought that by helping George out, it would just fuel additional tension between the East and West Ends.
5. V When the author states that, "Now there was something else in that house, and it smelled worse than garbage and turds," he conveys that there was a tension within the house that was making it feel awful.
6. C/E, DC b. He knew he could win, but was not sure how Mars Bar and the crowd would react.
7. C c. He wanted to be a role model for the McNab boys and felt if he abandoned them, he would be abandoning a part of himself.
8. C, P, C/E Coming to the West End has not really changed Mars Bar. He was a bit kinder to the Pickwells, but when he went to the McNabs' party, he still made fun of people and they almost got hurt. He did realize what Maniac was doing, but said he would not return to the West End.

**Vocabulary Activity: Have You Ever?, p. 35**

**Chapter 44– Chapter 46**

1. astonished: sudden wonder or surprise
2. pried: forced out, inquired unnecessarily about something
3. vast: great in size, amount, or intensity
4. rasping: speaking in an irritated tone
5. cling: to hold on tightly
6. drenched: thoroughly wet

**Comprehension Questions, pp. 36-37**

**Chapter 44– Chapter 46**

1. EI b. Mars Bar surprised Maniac because he kept running along side of him, but never said anything to Maniac.
2. DC Mars Bar probably ran with Maniac because he was curious to see what Maniac was doing. At some level, he may have envied him and wanted to be like him. He may want to show off to Maniac.
3. EI Maniac couldn't register with what he was seeing on the trestle because it reminded him of when his parents had died in the trolley accident.
4. DC After Mars Bar saved the McNab boys, I can conclude that he has changed. He seems to care more about being nice to people rather than intimidating them.



**Student Packet Answer Key**

5. DC Amanda's words and actions impact Maniac when she goes to the zoo to get him in the middle of the night by showing him that he can have a family and that people do care about him. He realizes that the Beales really are his family and he goes to live with them again.
6. P, C, C/E b. He wanted Mars Bar to rescue Russell.
7. C, P c. He did not feel it was right and wanted to go to the Beales.
8. PRE Answers will vary. Predictions should be based on text evidence. Sample predictions: Yes, Maniac will continue to live with the Beales. He says that he is content and has finally found a home. No, Maniac will leave the Beales because he likes moving from place to place.

**Relationship Change Worksheet, pp. 38****Lesson 5 Independent Practice**

Answers will vary depending on the relationship that students choose to focus on.

Maniac and Amanda:

*Relationship at the Beginning of the Book:* Maniac and Amanda are first friendly. They later care about each other a lot and Maniac moves into her house.

*What the Relationship Looks Like Now:* Maniac leaves Amanda's house. When Maniac leaves they are very angry and mad at each other. At the end of the story, they reunite and care for each other again.

*Characters and Events that Caused the Change:* Maniac starts to care for Amanda a lot because her family invites him to live in their home. Amanda and her family treat Maniac as if he was a member of their family. They become mad at each other because Maniac is teased by the locals for living in the black section of town when he is white. Amanda doesn't understand why he wants to leave and becomes angry with him. Maniac is mean to Amanda and leaves. Later, she finds him and they apologize to each other. Maniac once again lives with Amanda and they care about each other.

*How the Change Impacts the Characters:* Maniac and Amanda realize that what's most important is if you care about each other, not what others think of you.

Maniac and Grayson:

*Relationship at the Beginning of the Book:* Maniac and Grayson meet when Grayson runs into him sleeping in the park. They become friendly and take care of each other. They care for each other.

*What the Relationship Looks Like Now:* At first, Grayson and Maniac are friendly. Grayson teaches Maniac about baseball and Maniac teaches Grayson how to read. This helps them to open up about their past and get to know each other. They start to care for each other and become a family. The relationship ends when Grayson dies.

*Characters and Events that Caused the Change:* They spend more time together and open up to each other. When Grayson dies, the relationship ends.

*How the Relationship Impacts the Characters:* Both Grayson and Maniac come to think of each other as family. They realize that you do not need to be related to someone to consider them family. Maniac helps to give Grayson a purpose. Grayson's death causes Maniac to run away. He later realizes he can still care for someone even though they have died.