

MANIAC MAGEE QUESTIONS

Preview the questions before reading each section. Use these questions to guide your reading. You should be able to discuss and respond to these questions in class.

CHAPTERS 1-5

1. How does Jeffrey Magee become an orphan?
2. Why does Jeffrey run away?
3. Why does Jeffrey stand out in the East End?
4. What does Amanda have in her suitcase that Jeffrey loves?
5. Why do the high school boys think Jeffrey is “cool times 10”?

CHAPTERS 6-16

1. Where is Maniac living?
2. John McNab gets so mad, he wants to punish Maniac. What do he and his gang “The Cobras” do?
3. Mars Bar Thompson confronts Maniac. He offers him a bite of his candy bar. When Maniac takes a bite, there is dead silence on the street. Why?
4. Maniac is 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?
5. The Beales invite Maniac to stay. What must he do before he can sleep?

CHAPTERS 17-21

1. What does an old man at the block party call Maniac?
2. What does Amanda think will make Maniac popular with everyone in the East End?
3. What is the prize for untangling Cobble’s Knot?
4. How long does it take Maniac to untangle Cobble’s Knot?
5. Where does Maniac walk when he leaves town?

CHAPTERS 22-26

1. Why would Maniac not go to school?
2. Why does Maniac not stay at the YMCA with Grayson?
3. Why has Grayson never made it to the major leagues?
4. What does Maniac do with the money Grayson gives him?
5. What does Grayson want Maniac to do for him?

CHAPTERS 27-32

1. What is the first book Grayson reads?
2. Why does Maniac paint 101 outside his door?
3. What is the name of the book Maniac gives Grayson for Christmas?
4. What is the most important thing Grayson gives Maniac for Christmas?
5. Why does Grayson leave Maniac?

CHAPTERS 33-36

1. Maniac hears voices in another of the log cabins. What does he do?
2. To where are Piper and Missing Tooth running away?
3. Whose little brothers are Piper and Missing Tooth?
4. What is unusual about the McNab house?
5. Russell and Piper now go to school and begin to feel important. What makes them feel important?

CHAPTERS 37-46

1. What is the most perilous challenge Russell and Piper give Maniac to do?
2. When Maniac races Mars Bar, he causes more trouble, and Mars Bar now hates Jeffrey Magee. Why?
3. Why does Maniac get mad at Russell and Piper?
4. Why does Maniac start sleeping in people's backyards or on their porches?
5. In July, Maniac is running and feels as if someone is following him. Who turns out to be running at the same time?
6. What happens to Russell?
7. Why does Maniac not save Russell?
8. Maniac says nothing to Amanda because he knows he has finally found what?
9. Is Maniac a hero? Why or why not? Offer specific details from the story to support your ideas.