

## Lesson 1

### *Maniac Magee* An Unraveling

**Materials Needed:**

-  Pen or pencil
- dictionary

#### Quick Write

What is your impression of Maniac Magee? Do you think you could have been friends? Why or why not?



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1. Geneva rode her horse every Wednesday. **Who rode the horse?**

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2. The gigantic bear lumbered through the woods. **What lumbered through the woods?**

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3. The Santiagos flew to Mexico City. **Who flew to Mexico City?**

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In the sentences above the words **Geneva, bear, and Santiagos** are subjects. They are doing the actions of the verbs **rode, lumbered, and flew**.

**Finding a Subject:** Read the sentences and underline the subjects.

4. The black and white cat chases birds.
5. The cruise ship is anchored in the harbor.
6. The waves crashed over the dock during the storm.

Subjects may be separated from verbs by other words. If you are not sure what the subject is, ask yourself the question, “Who or what is doing the action of the verb?” **Write subjects** in the blanks of these sentences.

Example: Carmen raced Hans down the street.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is the title of my favorite book.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the dog which lives down the street.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ made me jump in surprise.

**Underline** the subjects in each sentence.

10. Some ants disappeared into a small hole in the hill.
11. Elizabeth lived on a long street in Washington, D.C.
12. The letter reached the soldier who was far away fighting a war.
13. After two nights of stormy weather, the sun finally came out.
14. Did John call last night?

Use each of the words 15 – 18 as the subject of a sentence.

Example: *rat*      The *rat* crept through the house.

15. dentist

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16. Argentina

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17. honesty

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18. alligator

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**Vocabulary:** These words will help you understand Chapters 18 and 19.

Word/Term	Definition
<b>coot</b>	a foolish or crotchety person (crotchety means grouchy)
<b>gopher</b>	a rodent related to the ground squirrel which lives in burrows under the ground
<b>bonkers</b>	crazy
<b>incubating</b>	to sit on or to warm an egg for hatching



**Read Chapters 18 and 19**

**Vocabulary:** Fill in the blanks with words which make sense. Use the **bold** context clues and a dictionary to help place the words correctly.

meandering	abruptly	prodded	gingerly
anxious	digest	impatient	

Amanda was **not** **19.**\_\_\_\_\_ to school, but walking at a **brisk pace** so she wouldn't be late. **20.**\_\_\_\_\_ to get to class; **she could not wait** to learn something new. As she was going along, she **21.**\_\_\_\_\_ stopped short because **Jeffrey was in her path.** Maniac asked Amanda where she was going in such a hurry and what she had in the briefcase. After learning its contents, he asked to borrow one of Amanda's precious books. It took her only a moment for her to **22.**\_\_\_\_\_ this question, but said, "No!" However, Maniac was persistent and **23.**\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda into letting him borrow

one book. **After having convinced her,** he **24.**\_\_\_\_\_ took the book from her **with great care.** Amanda was very **25.**\_\_\_\_\_ about letting this stranger borrow one of her novels, yet, even though she was **nervous,** she somehow trusted this young boy.

Use these words and context clues to complete the sentences 26 – 19.

grappled	immortal	robust	meandering	lumbering
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Soon Maniac was on his way because Miss Beale had stopped chatting with him. He followed the **26.**\_\_\_\_\_ river from **curve to curve** until it flowed under the trolley tracks. Then he smelled a **27.**\_\_\_\_\_ aroma coming from a nearby restaurant. As he turned to follow the **powerful scent,** he began to run along the rails and down onto the football field. Running along with a book in one hand, he caught a pass in the other. All witnesses stated he never **28.**\_\_\_\_\_ for the ball; it was **easily caught – no fumbling at all.** And the most amazing thing was, not only was he running full out, but he made a one handed catch. This was only the beginning of the stories which made Maniac **29.**\_\_\_\_\_.

**30.** One word in the box was not used. Use that word in a sentence which proves you understand the word's meaning.

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**Perspective or Point of View**

In Chapter 18 Jerry Spinelli uses dialogue to capture each character’s point of view. **Reread Pages 64 and 66.** Answer the questions 31 – 34.

**31.** If you were to speak to Amanda about this incident, what would **she** say?

Why?

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**32.** If you were to speak to Maniac, what would **he** say? Why?

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**33.** What is Cobble’s Knot?

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34. Why does Amanda think untying the Knot would help Maniac?

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35. Reread Page 69, the description of Cobble's Knot; draw your picture of the Knot.



36. Make a prediction of what will happen next.

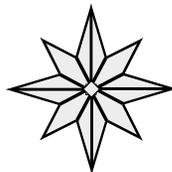
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**Notes or questions for your teacher/mentor:**



**End of Lesson 1**