

# Maniac Magee

By  
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Literature Guide Developed by Angela Frith Antrim  
for *Secondary Solutions LLC*®

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**Active Reading Guide: Note-Taking and Summarizing**

*Sample Note-Taking and Summarizing Chart*

**Before the Story, Chapters 1 - 2**

*To help you keep track of the novel’s events as they occur, you will be keeping notes using a chart similar to the one below. For each chapter, fill in the chart with the necessary information. An example for Before the Story, Chapters 1 - 2 is below.*

<b>Setting</b>	<p><i>(A description of where and when the action occurs.)</i></p> <p>Maniac Magee’s legend thrives around the Hector Street area. He was born in Bridgeport and moved to Hollidaysburg in western Pennsylvania after his parents died. He ended up in Two Mills after a year of running.</p>
<b>Characters</b>	<p><i>(List and describe important information about the characters in the chapter.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jeffrey Lionel Magee becomes Maniac Magee. He is an orphan who loves to run.</li> <li>2. Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan took Jeffrey in after his parents died. They could not get along with each other and had two of everything.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary</b>	<p><i>(A 3-5 sentence summary of the chapter.)</i></p> <p>The history of Maniac Magee is one part fact, two parts legend. Jeffrey’s parents died when their trolley dove off the trestle into the Schuylkill River. He then went to live with Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan who could not get along and refused to talk to each other. After Jeffrey ran away from their house, he ran for a year, The Lost Year, until he reached Two Mills.</p>
<b>Prediction of Coming Events</b>	<p><i>(Make a prediction of what you think will happen in the next chapter.)</i></p> <p>Jeffrey will perform amazing feats and make friends in Two Mills.</p>

**Part One: Before the Story, Chapters One – Five**

*Note-Taking and Summarizing: Chapter 3*

<b>Setting</b>	<i>(A description of where and when the action occurs.)</i>
<b>Characters</b>	<i>(List and describe important information about the characters in the chapter.)</i>
<b>Summary</b>	<i>(A 3-5 sentence summary of the chapter.)</i>
<b>Prediction of Coming Events</b>	<i>(Make a prediction of what you think will happen in the next chapter.)</i>

**Part One: Before the Story, Chapters One – Five**  
*Comprehension Check*

**Directions:** To help you understand all parts of the novel, answer the following questions for *Before the Story* and Chapters 1-5. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper using complete sentences.

**Before the Story**

1. What are some of the legends that people tell about Maniac Magee?
2. Describe Maniac Magee's legacy.
3. Analyze what the author means by "the history of a kid is one part fact, two parts legend, and three parts snowball."
4. Apply the description of a kid's history to predict if the novel will be realistic fiction or a tall tale. How can you tell?

**Chapters One and Two**

5. Evaluate how Jeffrey Magee's parents' deaths affect his life.
6. Summarize what it is like for Jeffrey to live with Aunt Dot and Uncle Dan.
7. Tell what occurs during the spring musicale.
8. Solve the mystery of the The Lost Year. What do you think Jeffrey does for this year?
9. Infer why the chapters are so short. What could this symbolize?

**Chapter Three**

10. Generalize why Amanda is surprised to see Jeffrey.
11. Conclude why Jeffrey cherishes books so much.
12. Discuss why Amanda carries a suitcase full of books with her to school.
13. Where does Amanda live?

**Chapters Four and Five**

14. Summarize what Jeffrey does during the eleventh-grade gym class.
15. Integrate Jeffrey's feat during gym class with the other stories about him. How realistic do you think these events are?
16. Order the events that occur at 803 Oriole Street in the West End.
17. Explain how Jeffrey cares for Amanda's book during these events.

## Part One: Before the Story, Chapters One - Five

*Standards Focus: Figurative Language*

**Figurative language** communicates ideas beyond their literal meaning to create an image in the reader’s mind. Some common types of figurative language, also called figures of speech, are **similes**, **metaphors**, and **hyperboles**.

- A **simile** compares two unlike things using the words “like” or “as.” For example, “Suddenly neither kid could see each other, because a broom came down like a straw curtain between their faces.” (pg. 36)
- A **metaphor** compares two unlike things without using the words “like” or “as.” For example, “Amanda took the torn page from Maniac. To her, it was the broken wing of a bird, a pet out in the rain.” (pg. 40)
- A **hyperbole** intentionally exaggerates to heighten the effect of an event or to produce a comic effect. “So, from the dump, from the creek, from the tracks, from Red Hill—in ran the Pickwell kids for dinner, all ten of them.” (pg. 21)

**Directions:** *Read each quote from the novel. Identify the type of figurative language that has been underlined, and explain how it creates an image in the reader’s mind to further the author’s point. An example has been done for you.*

*Ex.* A couple of people truly remember, and here’s what they saw: a scraggly little kid jogging toward them, the soles of both sneakers hanging by their hinges and flopping open like dog tongues each time they came up from the pavement. (pg. 9)

- a. Figure of Speech: simile
  - b. Explanation: “Flopping open like dog tongues” helps the reader visualize that the soles of Jeffrey’s tennis shoes are falling off, and flopping all over the place.
1. No one knew it then, but it [Jeffrey’s scream at the spring musicale] was the birth scream of a legend. (pg. 7)
    - a. Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_