

Vocabulary Handbook

Maniac Magee
by Jerry Spinelli

Name: _____

	WORD PART	MEANING	PART OF SPEECH
-able	suffix	able to, can be done	adjective
ac-	prefix	to, toward	
ad-	prefix	toward	
-age	suffix		noun or verb
agit	root	to shake up, to act, to lead	
-al	suffix		adjective
-ar	suffix		adjective
-ary	suffix		adjective
-ate	suffix		verb
bat	root	attack	
bellis	root	beauty	
ceal	root	hide, hidden, secret	
civ (cit)	root	city; person inhabiting a city	
clud	root	shut out	
com-	prefix	with, together	
commu	root	common, public, people	
con-	prefix	with, together	
contra-	prefix	against, opposed to	
cour	root	heart	
cris	root	to separate, pull apart	
cuse (caus)	root	cause, reason, purpose	
de-	prefix	down; completely; undo	
dict	root	to talk, speak, tell	
dis-	prefix	not; opposite of	
divid	root	separate	
-ed	suffix		past tense verb or adjective
em-	prefix	into	
en-	prefix	to provide with	
-en	suffix		verb
-ence	suffix		noun
equ	root	same, fair	
ex-	prefix	out, out from, away	
extra-	prefix	beyond	
fac	root	to make, do, cause	

famil	root	close relationship	
fend	root	guard, protect	
fi	root	to make, to cause	
fid	root	belief, trust, faith	
flict (flic, flig)	root	to strike, to destroy	
flu	root	flowing, moving smoothly	
fort	root	well-being, safety, strength	
-ful	suffix	full of	adjective
greg	root	come together, gather	
gener	root	kind	
-ic	suffix		adjective
-ice	suffix		noun
-il	suffix		adjective
in-	prefix	not; toward; inside	
-ing	suffix		present tense verb
-is	suffix		noun
-ism	suffix	belief in, practice of	noun
-ity	suffix		noun
ject	root	throw	
jud	root	to judge	
-ly	suffix		adjective or adverb
-ment	suffix		noun
mire (mira, mirac)	root	to wonder at	
noc	root	to harm, to injure	
-or	suffix	someone who	noun
ordin	root	order	
-ory	suffix	a place	noun
-ous	suffix		adjective
pathy	combining form	feeling, perception	
per-	prefix	through, across	
peril	root	danger	
pleas (plac)	root	to please, peacefulness	
pre-	prefix	before	
press	root	to push down	
pro-	prefix	on behalf of, to go before, to go in front of	

re-	prefix	back, again	
render	root	to give up	
-s	suffix	more than one	plural noun present tense verb
sacr	root	sacred, holy, religious	
satis	root	enough	
sci	root	knowledge, to know	
se-	root	apart from, by yourself	
senti	root	feeling	
sequ	root	follow, following	
sist	root	stand firm	
spic (spec)	root	to see, to look at	
spir (spira)	root	breath of life, soul, spirit	
sub-	prefix	under	
sur-	prefix	above	
sus-	prefix	under	
sym	combining form	with, together	
tali	root	punishment, payment in kind	
tect	root	to cover	
terri (terra)	root	land	
test (testi)	root	witness, one who stands by	
-tion	suffix		noun
un-	prefix	not	
-ure	suffix		noun
vant (vance)	root	move forward	
venge	root	to punish, to inflict damage	
vic (vinc, vict)	root	conquer, win	
volu (volv)	root	bend, turn, turn around	
vulner	root	able to get hurt	
-y	suffix		adjective

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

racially divided

Context:

“Back in those days, the town was pretty much divided.
The East End was blacks, the West End was whites.” (p. 12)

“ ‘You got your own kind. It’s how you wanted it. Let’s keep it that way. NOW MOVE ON.
Your kind’s waitin’ ’—he flung his finger westward—‘up there.’ ” (racially divided is inferred, p. 61)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

embellished

Context:

“The history of a kid is one part fact, two parts legend, and three parts snowball.”
(embellished is inferred, p. 2)

“If you listen to everybody who claims to have seen Jeffrey-Maniac Magee that first day, there must have been ten thousand people and a parade of fire trucks waiting for him at the town limits. Don’t believe it.” (embellished is inferred, p. 9)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“They say Maniac Magee was born in a dump. They say his stomach was a cereal box... What’s true, what’s myth? It’s hard to know...Cobble’s Corner still stands at the corner of Hector and Birch, and if you ask the man behind the counter, he’ll take the clump of string out of the drawer and let you see it.” (p. 1)

“...be very, very careful not to let the facts get mixed up with the truth.” (p. 2)

“It wasn’t a trick. It was true. The kid was running on the rail.” (p. 31)

Target Words:

truth vs. myth

What it is...

What it is...

I’ll remember this word by:

I’ll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

divided

Context:

“Pretty soon there were two of everything in the house. Two bathrooms. Two TVs. Two refrigerators. Two toasters. If it were possible, they would have had two Jeffreys. As it was, they split him up as best they could.” (divided is inferred, p. 6)

“Mr. Beale divided the little ones’ room into two sections with a panel of plywood, and Amanda moved her stuff to the back part.” (p. 45)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“Maniac Magee was not born in a dump. He was born in a house, a pretty ordinary house, right across the river from here, in Bridgeport. And he had regular parents, a mother and a father.” (p. 5)

“There was one other thing, something that all of them saw but no one believed until they compared notes after school that day: up until the punt, the kid had done everything with one hand. He had to, because in the other hand was a book.” (extraordinary is inferred, p. 15)

Target Words:

ordinary vs. extraordinary

What it is...

What it is...

I'll remember this word by:

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I'll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

feat

Context:

“Thus began a series of heroic feats by Maniac Magee. At twenty paces, he could hit a telephone pole with a stone sixty-one times in a row...He climbed the American bison pen at the zoo—he had suggested this feat himself, everyone else scoffing—and while the mother looked on, kissed the baby buffalo.” (p. 142)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

boundary

Context:

“Mr. Beale divided the little ones’ room into two sections with a panel of plywood, and Amanda moved her stuff to the back part.” (boundary is inferred, p. 45)

“The Cobras were standing at Hector Street. Hector Street was the boundary between the East and West Ends. Or, to put it another way, between the blacks and whites. Not that you never saw a white in the East End or a black in the West End. People did cross the line now and then, especially if they were adults and it was daylight. But nighttime, forget it.” (p. 32)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

fit in

Context:

“The way Maniac fit in, you would have thought he was born there. He played with the little ones and read them stories and taught them things. He took Bow Wow out for runs, and did the dishes without anybody asking.” (p. 45)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

pity

Context:

“Maniac told him that he didn’t really have a home, unless you counted the deer shed at the zoo. Mr. Beale made a U-turn right there and headed back. Only Mrs. Beale was still downstairs when they walked into the house. She listened to no more than ten seconds’ worth of Mr. Beale’s explanation before saying to Maniac, ‘You’re staying here.’ ” (pity is inferred, pp. 43–44)

“Though it wasn’t cold, it seemed that the kid ought to be covered, so the old man took his winter jacket off the hook and laid that over him.” (pity is inferred, pp. 80–81)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

fame

Context:

“And pretty soon everybody was saying it, including Hester and Lester; and, finally, in the kitchen one day, as he licked white icing from her thumb, Mrs. Beale said it: ‘You that Maniac?’ ”
(fame is inferred, p. 53)

“Maniac’s fame spread all over the East End... Little kids, especially preschoolers, came from all over, bringing him their knots. They had heard about him from Hester and Lester. They had heard he could untie a sneaker knot quicker than a kid could spend a quarter.” (p. 54)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

dislike

Context:

“Maniac loved almost everything about his new life. But everything didn’t love him back.”
(dislike is inferred, p. 56)

“And some kids don’t like a kid who is different...Or a kid who’s another color...Maniac kept trying, but he still couldn’t see it, this color business...But there it was piling up around him: dislike. Not from everybody. But enough.” (p. 58)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

worthy

Context:

“And there stood Maniac, turning the Knot, checking it out...his eyes lit up like flashbulbs, because he knew he was finally facing a knot that would stand up and fight, a worthy opponent.” (p. 71)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

favor

Context:

“Can I ask you a favor? Can we go somewhere and get some butterscotch Krimpets?” (p. 82)

“When Maniac finally got out of the shower, he found the old man waiting with clothes, Grayson’s clothes...Maniac couldn’t stop laughing. Neither could Grayson, especially when he got a load of the kid drowning in his clothes. An hour later, after a minor shopping spree, Maniac had clothes of his own.” (favor is inferred, p. 85)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

prejudice

Context:

“The kid had done the unthinkable, he had chomped on one of Mars’s own bars. Not only that, but white kids just didn’t put their mouths where black kids had had theirs, be it soda bottles, spoons or candy bars.” (prejudice is inferred, p. 34)

“The voice was behind him, saying the same word over and over...Maniac turned only because he was curious, wondering what everybody was staring at. But when he saw the brown finger pointed at him, and the brown arm that aimed it and the brown face behind it, he knew the name coming out of the can-of-worms mouth was his: ‘Whitey.’ And it surprised him that he knew.” (prejudice is inferred, p. 60)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

out of life

Context:

“He was forty, out of baseball, and, for all intents and purposes, out of life. All those years in the game, and all he was fit to do was clean a restroom or sweep a floor or lay a chalk line...” (p. 95)

“Maniac never stirred. Knowing it would not be fast or easy, and wanting, deserving nothing less, grimly, patiently, he waited for death.” (out of life is inferred, p. 123)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

amen

Context:

“A-men...I learned it in the church I used to go to. You don't have to wait for a prayer. You say it when somebody says something or does something you really like.’ He hopped off the bag, thrust both hands to the ceiling and shouted: ‘Aaaay-men!’ ” (pp. 103–104)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

disgraced

Context:

“...when the Bluefield Bullets took the field that day, they did so without the services of their new pitcher, who was back in the kitchen of the Blue Star restaurant, doing dishes.”
(disgraced is inferred, p. 93)

“Grayson took the mound and proceeded to pitch the flat-out awfulest game of his life... Before the third inning was over, the score was 12-0, and Grayson was in the showers.”
(disgraced is inferred, p. 95)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

perilous

Context:

“He loved to meet the challenges they cooked up for him. And then one day they gave him the most perilous challenge of all.” (p. 142)

“Maniac! You’re alive! We thought they got ya! We thought they slit yer throat!”
(perilous is inferred, p. 149)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)