Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Setting and Conflict**

**Setting:** As we have discussed, the setting is one of the most

important aspects in a novel. Remember that the setting includes the

following:

 Time: historical time period, season, time of day

 Location: Weather, landforms, physical arrangement of the environment

 Environment: religious, mental, moral, social, emotional, and political conditions

**Conflict:** These are the problems that occur in the novel. A desire to see the problem resolved encourages the reader to keep reading a book. In ***Maniac Magee****,* the novel’s setting contributes to the conflicts and problems that occur.

**Directions**: *Read the excerpts from the novel and answer the following questions in complete sentences on the lines provided*.

***“But not an address. At least, not an official one with numbers. What he did have was the deer shed at the Elmwood Park Zoo, which is where he slept his first few nights in town. (pg. 29)***

1. According to this passage, where does Maniac Magee live?

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2. How does Maniac Magee’s residence create a problem to be solved?

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***“Why didn’t he go back to Bridgeport or the West End, where he belonged? Bother some white girl up there? (pg. 13)***

3. Describe the types of people who live in the West End.

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4. Why does Maniac Magee belong in the West End?

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***“So McNab and his pals went looking for the kid. They called themselves the Cobras. Nobody messed with them. At least, nobody in the West End. (pg. 30)***

5. Explain McNab and the Cobra’s role in the West End. Why would nobody mess with them?

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6. How do you think McNab and the Cobras react to outsiders in the West End?

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***“The Cobras were standing at Hector Street. Hector Street was the boundary between 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. (pg. 32)***

7. Describe who lives in the East End.

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8. How much do the citizens of the East and West Ends interact with each other?

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9. How well do you think Maniac Magee will fit into the East End? Why?

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***As usual, when Mars Bar got confused, he got mad. He thumped Maniac in the chest. “You think you bad or something?...Mars Bars jammed his arms downward, stuck out his chin, sneered, “Am I bad?”…There wasn’t an elven-year-old in the East End who could stand up to Mars Bar’s glare. (pg. 35-36)***

10. Explain Mars Bar’s role in the East End.

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11. How do you think Mars Bar will react to Maniac Magee being in the East End?

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***“Unless you had business on the other side, such as a sports team or school. But don’t be just strolling along, as if you belonged there, as if you weren’t afraid, as if you didn’t even notice you were a different color from everybody around you… Of course, Maniac didn’t know any of that. (pg. 32)***

12. How much of the unwritten rules of the East and West Ends does Maniac understand?

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13. In what ways do you think the racial divisions might cause a problem for Maniac?

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14. How will these divisions affect Maniac’s desire to belong somewhere and have a permanent home?

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15. Why is the setting an important element in this novel?

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