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Character Analysis

An author lets us know about a novel’s characters in a variety of ways. A reader’s impression is formed through the character’s speech, physical description, surroundings, and the other character’s reactions to him/her.

Directions: Using the clues, use your novel to locate specific quotes about Maniac Magee to show examples of his behavior or personality from the beginning of the book through Chapter 42. The quote you chose should prove the behavior and/or personality trait mentioned in the clue. An example has been done for you.

Hint: Remember that to find quotes from a text, you are not always looking for words located within quotation marks, which is dialogue. For this activity, the quotes you choose can be either narration or dialogue.

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| Clue | Quote from text |
| Example:  The difference between the legend and the truth about Maniac (Ch. 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. 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) |
| 1. How Jeffrey came to be called Maniac. (Ch.8) |  |
| 2. Maniac’s desire for a home. (Ch. 12) |  |
| 3, Jeffrey misses his parents. (Ch. 14) |  |
| 4. Maniacs feelings about living with the Beales in the East End. (Ch. 17) |  |
| 5. Maniac’s appearance (Ch.22) |  |
| 6. Maniac’s attitude toward learning. (Ch. 26) |  |
| 7. Maniac’s acceptance of Grayson as family (Ch. 29) |  |
| 8. Maniac’s anger and frustration at being an orphan and being homeless. (Ch. 33) |  |
| 9. Why Maniac helps Russell and Piper McNab (Ch. 40) |  |
| 10. Maniac’s frustration with the racism he sees. (Ch. 41) |  |

Using some of the quotes you chose from above for support, describe the character of Maniac Magee (Not how he looks, his character.) Use the RACE strategy.

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