



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - Maniac Magee

Grade level 5
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 820L

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Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

In the story, instead of returning Amanda's book right away, Maniac Magee keeps it to read again and again. Maniac Magee gets great pleasure from reading. Write about an activity, sport or hobby that gives you great pleasure.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

When Maniac first moves in with the Beales he is so happy to feel at home that he goes out to stare at the number on the front of the house (101). Later when he finds a home with Grayson, Maniac paints 101 on the door. In both cases the number makes Maniac feel like he belongs. Think about something that makes you feel as though you belong. Write a paragraph about something that makes you feel like you fit in.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

In the story, Maniac Magee is a legendary figure because of the amazing feats he is reported to have accomplished. Write about something you accomplished that you consider to be an amazing feat.

Evidence and Inference

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

Sometimes one event can change a person's life completely. Write a paragraph about the terrible accident that befalls Jeffrey's family and how it affects Jeffrey's life.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 2.)

1. What is the terrible tragedy that affects Jeffrey Magee and how old is he when it occurs?
2. What is the immediate effect of the accident on Jeffrey's life?
3. How do the conditions he finds in his first home after the accident affect Jeffrey?
4. How long does Jeffrey endure the conditions in the place he is sent to after the tragedy? What action does he take to remedy the situation?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

There are times when people are able to accomplish what seems to be an impossible task. Write a paragraph about the "impossible" task that Maniac attempts at Cobble's Corner Grocery in order to remain in Two Mills.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 21.)

1. Why does Amanda need to come up with a plan for Maniac to remain in Two Mills?
2. What is Amanda's plan? Why does she think it will help Maniac to stay?
3. How does Maniac go about solving the problem?
4. What is the effect on the townspeople who live on the east and west sides of Hector Street of Maniac's attempts to solve the problem at Cobble's Corner?

Evidence and Inference Topic 3

At the beginning of the novel, the author writes of Maniac's legacy to the town of Two Mills. Write a paragraph about the legacy that Maniac leaves to Two Mills. What did he do to create this legacy?

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

1. What is the situation on Hector Street when Maniac first arrives in Two Mills?
2. What is Maniac's initial reaction to the situation on Hector Street?
3. How does Maniac try to change the conditions on Hector Street?
4. What is Maniac's legacy to Two Mills?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

In many ways Maniac Magee is a mythical character, someone who can do things that are beyond the capabilities of ordinary boys. Write a paragraph about some of the things Maniac does that are mythical in nature.

1. What stories about Maniac's beginnings contribute to his mythical standing?
2. Describe at least one of the events that occur on Maniac's first day in Two Mills that contributes to his legend.
3. After Maniac makes the deal with Russell and Piper to knock on Finsterwall's door, what series of heroic feats does Maniac complete?
4. What was unusual about the race Maniac ran against Mars Bar?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from Maniac Magee that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
contortion	Act of twisting or deforming the shape of something
infamous	Having a bad reputation
legend	A story about a mythical being
feat	An extraordinary act or achievement
forlorn	Sad and lonely because of isolation or desertion

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Maniac Magee include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
hallucination	Perception of objects with no reality
cringe	Draw back, as with fear or pain
diverge	Extend in a different direction
mourner	A person who is feeling grief
pandemonium	A state of extreme confusion and disorder
pommel	Hit again and again
repertoire	The range of skills of a particular person
replica	A copy exact in all details
trestle	A braced frame serving as a support
extort	Obtain from a person by force
nonchalant	Having an air of easy unconcern
mammoth	Immensely large
phantom	A ghostly appearing figure
flaunt	Display proudly
good Samaritan	One who is helpful to a person in distress
leer	To look with a nasty glance

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Maniac is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Maniac look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

Compare and contrast Maniac with Amanda or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

It is very special to find a place where you belong. Maniac finds such a place with the Beales. Write a paragraph telling how the Beales make Maniac feel as though he belongs.
(*This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 14.*)

Additional Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of Maniac Magee, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Throughout our lives we come in contact with people who we will never forget, either because of their eccentricities or because of the way they have treated us. Write a paragraph that describes the first person to actually speak with Maniac after he reaches Two Mills. Include some qualities that make this person unforgettable.

(*This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 3.*)

In the story, Maniac Magee's actions eventually lead to big changes in Two Mills. Write about a time your actions effected some kind of change.

(*This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.*)

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

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