

Maniac Magee Vocabulary Worksheets

Chapters 17-21

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Grownups sat on the sidewalk and dangled their bare feet in the running gutters.

2. And the man was croaking, ranting, not to Maniac now but to the people.

3. "I'm incubating an egg."

4. It was made of string, but it had more contortions, ins and outs, twists and turns and dips and doodles than the brain of Albert Einstein himself.

5. Others say his mouth was more grim than grin, that his eyes lit up like flashbulbs, because he knew he was finally facing a knot that would stand up and fight, a worthy opponent.

6. He would need the touch of a surgeon, the alertness of an owl, the cunning of three foxes and the foresight of a grand master in chess.

7. He would need the touch of a surgeon, the alertness of an owl, the cunning of three foxes and the foresight of a grand master in chess.

8. But nobody stepped off a curb, everybody kept moving north, an ugly, snarling black-and -white escort for the kid in the middle.
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Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| _____ 1. dangled | A. skill in deception |
| _____ 2. ranting | B. hung loosely |
| _____ 3. incubating | C. looking into the future |
| _____ 4. contortions | D. twisting and bending out of shape |
| _____ 5. opponent | E. developing and hatching |
| _____ 6. cunning | F. speaking in a violent manner |
| _____ 7. foresight | G. one who is against another |
| _____ 8. escort | H. a guide or guard |