

*Maniac Magee* Vocabulary Worksheets

Chapters 27-32

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. While he groused about so preposterous an idea, the kid laid down the mat he never used, bulldogged him down to it, pulled off his shoes, and draped a blanket over him.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The old man gave himself up willingly to his exhaustion and drifted off like a lazy, sly-high fly ball.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Maniac was jumping on his seat, screaming trash at Hands's pursuers every step to the goal line (and glancing about to make sure Mrs. Beale wasn't hearing.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Maniac thought of Thanksgivings past, of sitting around a joyless table, his aunt and uncle as silent and lifeless as the mammoth bird they gnawed on.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. By the time the two of them finished trimming it-- their tree-trimming instincts having languished for so many Christmases--hardly a pine needle could be seen under the tinsel and balls and whatnot.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. They bundled themselves and ventured into the silent night.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Beyond the tall pines, stars glittered like snowflakes reluctant to fall.

8. He held the cold, limp hand that had thrown the pitch that had struck out Willie Mays, that had betrayed the old man's *stoic* ways by giving him a squeeze.
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Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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|----------|--------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. | preposterous | A. | complete weariness                    |
| _____ 2. | exhaustion   | B. | went in spite of risk                 |
| _____ 3. | pursuers     | C. | farfetched                            |
| _____ 4. | mammoth      | D. | indifferent to pleasure or pain       |
| _____ 5. | languished   | E. | followers trying to overtake; chasers |
| _____ 6. | ventured     | F. | weakened; faded                       |
| _____ 7. | reluctant    | G. | unwilling                             |
| _____ 8. | stoic        | H. | gigantic; enormous                    |