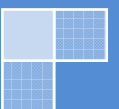
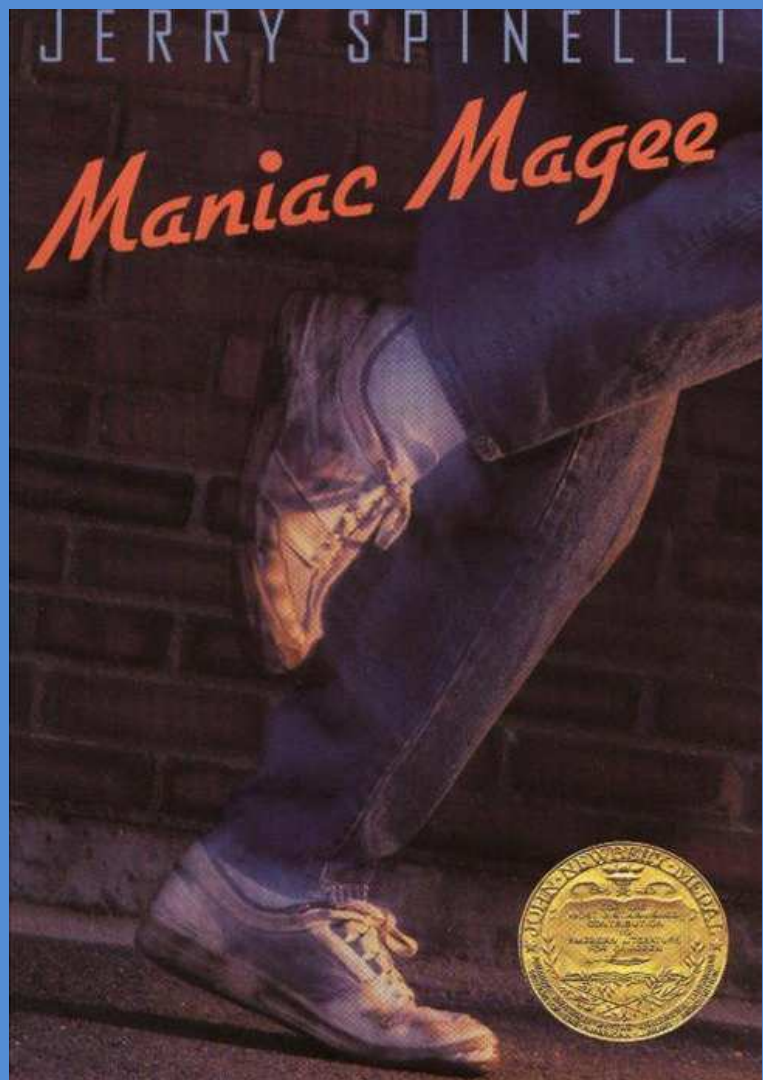


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Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

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Maniac Magee
By Jerry Spinelli

In the book, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli, the main character, Jeffery Magee is always known as a maniac. Jeffery Magee is a very mysterious person. Maniac Magee always carried a book in his hand, and always had his flat-soled sneakers flapping on the surface. He said hi to strangers and people that he didn't know. Maniac was so mysterious and it was awkward to see him. For instance, Maniac even went into the forbidden lawn of Finsterwald, at 803 Oriole Street. When he saves a kid from the yard, he vanishes. Just like that, he runs away. Another way that Maniac or Jeffery Magee is a mysterious person is when he dared to play baseball with John McNab. All the people that played in the little league knew that not a single person would ever get to break McNab's record of best baseball playing in the history. Maniac also appeared out of nowhere, putting on a random Little League hat, take up a bat, and start playing. Then, he even starts to run away again. Maniac was constantly running. In addition to that, Maniac had just gone in to a Pickwell's house. Nobody had ever tried to enter another person's house before. He just strolled in the house without announcing anything. Everybody called him a maniac.

One way that Jeffery Magee was a mysterious person is that he keeps on vanishing to somewhere else. One time, he tried to save a person in a back yard at Oriole Street. The kid, Arnold Jones was so scared, he started trembling all over. Jeffery of course, comes strolling in the yard with a book in his hand, and his flat-soled sneakers. People described him as kind of straggly. Many of them called him Maniac after this scene was noticed. Jeffery was really freaking the kid out actually, because Arnold thought that Jeffery was supposed to be Finsterwald. Although Jeffery did save Arnold, he did put him on Finsterwald's front steps that everybody also avoided the most. Arnold fled like a fly. Just like that, the boy, as the high school group of students clearly saw, left the yard and went to the steps to sit down, relax, and read. Jeffery was as cool as ever. The next thing they knew, Maniac was leaving. He left with the image and a question stuck in their heads. Who is this guy? What was he doing here?

Second of all, the thing that makes Maniac mysterious is when he keeps on reappearing, and disappearing all over again. When the best baseball player ever known in the little league at West End park. This baseball player was called John McNab. John was counting the people that were being strike out. Just then, a new kid stepped up. Straggly, flat-soled sneakers, book in hand. Who is this kid? McNab thought. With the hat that hew newly took, Maniac waited for a throw. As he swung the bat, he had actually caught one of McNab's fastballs. All this time, Maniac was as calm as ever. Doing this four times, he even got four home runs too. By now, McNab's nostrils were flaring. He said that he needed to go to the bathroom. He came back with a frog in his hand, replacing the normal baseball. Even if it was a frog, Maniac knew that it would be hard hitting with it. As he hit a new, "frog ball," he threw his cap away and just ran off with his book once more.

Finally, Maniac Magee is a mysterious person at the part when he entered the Pickwell's house. Right when the whistle started, not only did it drive the members of the Pickwell family to dinner on time, it made Maniac curious and he followed it. Nobody would try to follow the whistle. When the Pickwells were having their dinner, they didn't notice anything strange. That was until the children noticed that Maniac was even sitting next to the Pickwells watching the Pickwells. The children saw that the strange kid was even there for once. They kept on eating before. One child asked if the other child saw maniac before. Then all the kids said no. As they watched, they saw Maniac race away at the mention of the strange kid at sight. Right then and there, Maniac quietly raced out of the door, carrying his book as usual in his left hand. The Pickwells couldn't believe their eyes! There was Maniac. However, there was also something amazing that they saw. He was actually running. Maniac was really running on the rails. The Pickwells were standing there dumbfounded, and speechless in awe, watching as Maniac ran away.

Mysterious. Scraggly. Awe-inspiring. He's a maniac. Must be a maniac. He was mysterious. He traveled everywhere and always ran. Maniac Magee was also known as Jeffery Magee. Maniac kept on disappearing. When he appeared out of nowhere, he would pop back down again, and fade away. Maniac was mysterious when he went into Finsterwald's back yard to save Arnold Jones from fainting in fright. He pops out of nowhere, and strolls into the yard. Maniac is still calm when Arnold runs away really speedy to find Maniac next to him. Then just like that, he fades away and drops back into the background. Furthermore, Maniac came into view out of nowhere, with a baseball hat, and bat all ready. John McNab throws the ball. Maniac swings. He actually swung it and scored a homerun! Maniac is being all rooted up and he finally stops when he thought was the appropriate time to stop playing baseball. Moreover, Maniac was also mysterious when he went to join the Pickwells and wanted to join them with their dinner. He listened to the sound, and followed it to the house of the Pickwell family. Again, he pops out of nowhere, just comes up and jumps right in and blend in with the people around him, as if he belonged there. Maniac, Maniac, Maniac Magee.