

3. *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli (Excerpt)

A ¹“Where you goin’?” he said.
²Candy bar flakes flew from his mouth.

B ³“I’m looking for Sycamore Street,” said Maniac. ⁴“Do you know where it is?”

C ⁵“Yeah, I know where it is.”

D ⁶Maniac waited, but the kid said nothing more.

E ⁷“Well, uh, do you think you could tell me where it is?”

F ⁸Stone was softer than the kid’s glare.

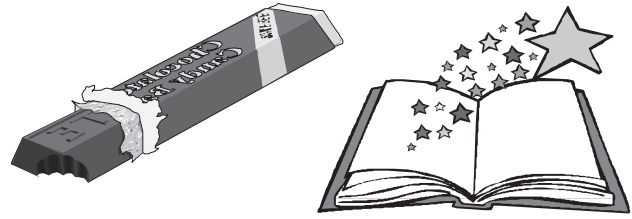
G ⁹“No.”

H ¹⁰Maniac looked around. ¹¹Other kids had stopped playing, were staring.

I ¹²Someone called: “Do ’im, Mars!”

J ¹³Someone else: “Waste ’im!”

K ¹⁴The kid, as you probably guessed by now, was none other than Mars Bar Thompson. ¹⁵Mars Bar heard the calls, and the stone got harder. ¹⁶Then suddenly he stopped glaring, suddenly he was smiling. ¹⁷He held up



the candy bar, an inch from Maniac’s lips. ¹⁸“Wanna bite?”

L ¹⁹Maniac couldn’t figure. ²⁰“You sure?”

M ²¹“Yeah, go ahead. ²²Take a bite.”

N ²³Maniac shrugged, took the Mars Bar, bit off a chunk, and handed it back. ²⁴“Thanks.”

O ²⁵Dead silence along the street. ²⁶The kid had done the unthinkable, he had chomped on one of Mars’s own bars. ²⁷Not only that, but white kids just didn’t put their mouths where black kids had had theirs, be it soda bottles, spoons, or candy bars. ²⁸And the kid hadn’t even gone for the unused end; he had chomped right over Mars Bar’s own bite marks.

P ²⁹Mars Bar was confused. ³⁰Who was this kid? ³¹*What* was this kid?

DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence presented in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support your answer.

1. List two sentences from the passage that best support the idea that Maniac was not welcome in the neighborhood.

Sentences _____, _____

2. What does the author mean when he states “Stone was softer than the kid’s glare.”
 - A. Stone *is* actually softer than the glare of an angry kid.
 - B. The kid’s glaring eyes were gray like stone.
 - C. The kid’s glare was really intense.
 - D. The kid’s glare was beginning to soften.

3. What does the author mean when he writes “Mars Bar heard the calls, and the stone got harder”?

4. Why was Maniac confused when Mars Bar quit glaring at him and then offered him a bite of his candy bar?

5. What was a key event in the story?
 - A. Maniac bit Mars Bar’s candy bar.
 - B. The kids stopped playing.
 - C. Mars Bar glared at Maniac.
 - D. Mars Bar didn’t answer Maniac.

6. What do you think Mars Bar was doing when he offered his candy bar to Maniac?
 - A. He was trying to get rid of his candy bar.
 - B. He wanted to share his candy bar with Maniac.
 - C. He was testing Maniac to see what he’d do.
 - D. He wanted to prove he didn’t mind letting a white kid eat his candy bar.

Give the letter of the paragraph that best supports your answer. _____

7. What two things caused Mars Bar to become confused?

Give the number of the sentence that best supports each example.

_____, _____

3. Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (Excerpt)

1. List two sentences from the passage that best support the idea that Maniac was not welcome in the neighborhood. (supporting detail)

Sentences **12, 13**

2. What does the author mean when he states “Stone was softer than the kid’s glare”? (figurative language)
- A. Stone *is* actually softer than the glare of an angry kid.
 - B. The kid’s glaring eyes were gray like stone.
 - C. The kid’s glare was really intense.**
 - D. The kid’s glare was beginning to soften.

The author is comparing the intensity and hardness of the kid’s glare to stone.

3. What does the author mean when he writes “Mars Bar heard the calls, and the stone got harder”? (figurative language)

The author means that Mars Bar’s glare is becoming even stronger.

4. Why was Maniac confused when Mars Bar quit glaring at him and then offered him a bite of his candy bar? (conclusion)

Until now, he had been unfriendly to Maniac.

5. What was a key event in the story? (key event)
- A. Maniac bit Mars Bar’s candy bar.**
 - B. The kids stopped playing.
 - C. Mars Bar glared at Maniac.
 - D. Mars Bar didn’t answer Maniac.

B, C, and D are details in the story, but not main events.

6. What do you think Mars Bar was doing when he offered his candy bar to Maniac? (inference)
- A. He was trying to get rid of his candy bar.
 - B. He wanted to share his candy bar with Maniac.
 - C. He was testing Maniac to see what he’d do.**
 - D. He wanted to prove he didn’t mind a white kid eating his candy bar.

1 best evidence paragraph: **O**

C is the best answer. Mars Bars was being unfriendly to Maniac as evidenced by his not telling Maniac where Sycamore Street is and then glaring at him. Mars Bar probably did not want to get rid of or share his candy bar, especially not to a kid who he didn’t seem to like (A, B). This would point to another motive. Therefore, he was probably testing or tormenting Maniac. There is no evidence for D.

7. What two things caused Mars Bar to become confused? (cause/effect)

1. Maniac took a bite of his candy bar. 2. He also put his mouth right where Mars Bar’s mouth had been on the candy bar, something white kids just didn’t do.

1 best evidence sentence for each example:
26, 27