

**Part One: Before the Story, Chapters One – Five****Assessment Preparation: Hyphen, Colon, and Semi-Colon**

There are several punctuation marks that you can use to add power to your writing, making it more interesting and varied:

- the hyphen (-)
- the dash (—)
- the colon (:)
- the semicolon (;)

Each of these punctuation marks has a special function in writing.

**Use the hyphen:**

1. to separate words by syllables: *be-gin*
2. to separate two or more adjectives that work together to modify a noun: *chocolate-covered marshmallow*
3. to write out the numbers twenty-one to ninety-nine
4. for some compound nouns: *mother-in-law, merry-go-round* (Hint: If you're not sure if a compound noun uses a hyphen, check the dictionary.)
5. for words that begin with ex: *ex-president*
6. between a prefix that ends with a vowel and a base word that begins with a vowel: *re-enter*
7. to join a letter to a word: *T-shirt, X-ray*

**Use the dash:**

1. to indicate an abrupt change in thought: *William and Kendra—who recently got engaged—will be coming to our party Saturday.*
2. in place of a colon: *We were told to bring three things to class—paper, a pen, and a great attitude.*
3. to indicate an afterthought: *All of the students were scared of the teacher's consequences—every single student.*
4. to set off a repeated word or phrase: *I was happy—really happy—I brought my supplies.*

**Use the colon:**

1. to introduce a list: *We purchased supplies for the camping trip: fishing poles, a tent, and cookies.*
2. in writing the time: *8:04*
3. to show a ratio: *5:1*
4. after the salutation in a formal letter: *Dear Sir:*
5. to introduce an important piece of information, a fact or a question: *There is one thing you don't want to do with your homework: set it near my baby brother.*

**Use the semicolon:**

1. to connect two independent clauses: *Bob watched the ping-pong match intently; he is a skilled player.*
2. when you are writing a series that contains commas: *I purchased three ping-pong paddles with extra padding on the handles; four ping-pong balls in neon colors; and three large bags of apples, oranges, and lemons for the tournament.*

**Part One**

**Directions:** For each of the following sentences from *Maniac Magee*, a hyphen, dash, colon, and/or semi-colon has been used. For each sentence, identify the punctuation mark that has been used, the rule that has been used for each mark, and finally, give a very brief explanation about why the rule applies. An example has been done for you.

*Ex. And sometimes the girl holding one end of the rope is from the West Side of Hector, and the girl on the other end is from the East Side; and if you're looking for Maniac Magee's legacy, or monument, that's as good as any—even if it wasn't really a bull. (2)*

- a. Mark/Rule: semi-colon; rule #1
- b. Explanation: separates two independent clauses
- c. Mark/Rule: dash; rule # 3
- d. Explanation: indicates the afterthought "even if it wasn't really a bull."

1. *Jeffrey Magee wasn't supposed to be up there on the risers, pointing to his aunt and uncle, bellowing out from the midst of the chorus: "Talk! Talk, will ya! Talk! Talk! Talk!" (7)*

- a. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Three springy steps down from the risers—girls in pastel dresses screaming, the music director lunging—a leap from the stage, out the side door and into the starry, sweet, onion-grass-smelling night. (7)*

- a. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. *The question is: What took him so long? (8)*

- a. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Sure, two hundred miles is a long way, especially on foot, but the year that it took him to cover it was about fifty-one weeks more than he needed—figuring the way he could run, even then. (8)*

- a. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Mark/Rule: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two**

Look through Before the Story and Chapters 1-5 of the text of *Maniac Magee* to complete Part Two.

**Directions:** Find five sentences that use a hyphen, dash, colon, and/or semi-colon. Copy the sentence, then point out the punctuation used, giving the rule number and an explanation for the way the punctuation was used. (You may not use examples that have already been used in Part One.)

1. Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rule/Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rule/Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rule/Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rule/Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rule/Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_