

Post-Reading Book Cover Analysis EXAMPLE

Refer to your completed Book Cover Notes and Book Review Web handouts to answer the questions below.

Book title: Maniac Magee Author: Jerry Spinelli

Brief description of the book cover art: Blurred photo of legs running

1. Overall, was the book what you expected based on the book cover? If so, in what ways? If not, what was different than you expected? No, I thought it might be about track because of the running legs on the cover, but it was more about discrimination and other problems of a homeless boy.
2. Which literary elements did you think were depicted on the book cover before you read the book? How did these compare to the literary elements you thought were most key to the book after you read it? I thought the image showed the theme of the book (track or running). After I read it, I thought the themes of homelessness, racism, and discrimination were very important. After reading it, I think the image shows Maniac running and always moving, which was an important symbol in the book.
3. List any elements of the book cover art that you feel were misleading and explain why: The running legs were a little misleading because I thought they meant the book would be about track or running. After reading the book, though, I know they were really about Maniac always running and never settling down.
4. List any elements of the book cover art that you feel worked well and explain why: I think making the picture blurry worked well because it got across the idea of motion and never settling down, which was an important symbol in the book.
5. List any key elements of the book that you feel were not reflected in the cover art: I don't think the theme of discrimination and racism was really shown in the cover art.
6. If you were to design the cover art for this book, what would you do differently?
I would try to get across the idea of discrimination to the reader. I would also try to show that the book was really funny, with lots of "tall tales" in it.