***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 18***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 18. Maniac decides that he must leave the Beale’s home. Amanda is frantic and tries to question how he will survive away from home. For every question that Amanda brings up, Maniac has an answer. He eventually leaves the Beale’s home. Lunchtime and dinner time pass and Maniac still hasn’t returned. Amanda searches East End, West End, and Bridgeport without finding him. Maniac finally shows up in the evening, much to Amanda’s surprise. The next day, a young child comes to the Beale’s house to ask Maniac to help him with a knot. As Amanda watches Maniac tackle the knot, an idea pops into her head. She hints to Maniac she has an idea that would make it okay for him to stay with the Beales. The idea is centered around the infamous Cobble’s Knot.

***Summary and Analysis Part by part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Amanda](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/amanda-beale) tries to talk a sullen [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) out of leaving the Beales. She doesn’t understand that Maniac feels hurt not primarily for himself, but for her and her family. When Maniac jogs off, she pedals her bike all over town, even crossing the river into Bridgeport, in search of him. He’s not to be found. Finally, Maniac sneaks in late that night, and Amanda snaps sarcastically at him so he won’t know how relieved she is. The next morning, after Maniac helps a little kid undo a [knot](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/symbols/knots) in his yo-yo string, Amanda gets an idea. She thinks she has a plan to get the entire town on Maniac’s side. She tells him about Cobble’s Knot.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Amanda shows that she’s a loyal friend who accepts Maniac as part of her home and community and won’t listen to other people’s objections about him. When she notices his skill at undoing knots, she has an idea—why not transfer this ordinary knack into something more epic?