***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 19***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 19. Cobble’s Knot is located at the Cobble’s Corner Grocery store. The knot had been discovered in the unsuccessful store one morning by Mr. Cobble and he had created a publicity stunt aimed at finding the person who could un-tie it. The winner would be treated to one large pizza for a week. Amanda thinks if Maniac un-ties the knot, he will be hailed as a hero and be accepted in the neighborhood. Maniac is skeptical but agrees to take on the challenge.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The legend of Cobble’s Knot goes like this: [Mr. Cobble](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters) was running a struggling corner grocery store. One day he noticed a giant [knot](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/symbols/knots) dangling from the flagpole in front of his store. He decided that he’d offer a prize to anyone who could untangle the knot. He’d call the newspaper and get lots of free publicity. The contest scheme kept Cobble in business, except that nowadays, he’s running a pizza joint. And to this day, nobody has successfully untied the knot. It’s about the size of a volleyball and has thwarted a future magician and a future pickpocket.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Cobble’s knot is part of the legendary landscape of Two Mills. Amanda senses that if Maniac could unravel this famous knot, he’ll be accepted as a true member of the community.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Amanda](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/amanda-beale) convinces [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) that if he successfully unties the [knot](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/symbols/knots), he’ll become a hero, and nobody will mess with him. Maniac teases Amanda that she just wants the pizza prize, since she knows Maniac is allergic. But then he agrees to try.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Untying the knot is a meaningless gesture on the surface, but Amanda’s plan shows her love for Maniac and her determination to help him find a permanent place in the community.