***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 22***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 22. Without a home to go back to, Maniac goes back to the zoo’s buffalo pen. He sets a routine, which includes leaving during the day and returning back to the pen later. One night, a zoo and parks employee, Grayson, is making his rounds and discovers Maniac has fallen on the ground. Grayson hoists Maniac into his truck and takes him into a baseball equipment room. He carefully touches Maniac’s hand and slowly he awakens. After feeding Maniac, Grayson attempts to learn a little more about this mysterious stranger. When Grayson finds out Maniac had been living in the East End, he scrapes dirt from Maniac’s skin to determine if he is white or black. Maniac talks Grayson into taking him to buy some butterscotch Krimpets and the two take off.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The baby buffalo at the Elmwood Park Zoo wakes up one morning and discovers a stranger sitting in its lean-to, munching a carrot. Pretty soon, the baby buffalo befriends the stranger and cuddles with it in the mornings. But one day the stranger, while climbing over the enclosure fence, falls and lies still.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Maniac, unable to find a place for himself among other people, once again resorts to living with animals. But without a connection to other people, he’s clearly suffering.

***Summary Part 2:***

A old man is driving through the zoo in a pickup. He spots the kid’s huddled body and stops. The kid is bony and dressed in rags. The old man hoists the kid into his truck and takes him to the baseball equipment room in the park’s band shell. Eventually, the kid comes to and asks where he is. The man tells him, and he identifies himself as [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson). He gets [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) some food. While grateful, Maniac is still hungry. He asks for butterscotch Krimpets.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Maniac, who’s beginning to starve, is discovered and taken in by a kindly stranger. Grayson’s appearance in the story shows that kindness and human connection can be found even where they’re least expected.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) wants to know [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee)’s name first. When Maniac explains that he’d been living in the East End, Grayson scrapes some dirt off Maniac’s arm and studies his skin. He doesn’t ask any more questions. They get in the truck and go in search of butterscotch Krimpets.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Grayson’s gesture of scraping the dirt off of Maniac’s arm shows that the idea of a white kid living in the East End is unthinkable to him.