***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 23***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 23. Grayson buys Maniac a box of thirty butterscotch Krimpets and the two head back to Grayson’s home, the Two Mills YMCA. Grayson takes Maniac into a locker room and points him to a shower. Later, Grayson buys clothes for Maniac and talks to him about what his next moves will be. Maniac suggests he could get a job with Grayson at the park and live in the baseball room. Grayson suggests Maniac go to school. Maniac replies he’s not going to school because he doesn’t have an address. To Maniac, an address is much more than a physical place but rather a feeling and a place to belong – an indication of a root system.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) buys [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) a huge helping of Krimpets. Then he takes him to the Two Mills YMCA, where Grayson lives, so that Maniac can use the showers. Since Grayson’s spare clothes are way too big for Maniac, he takes Maniac to buy some new ones. Grayson questions Maniac about what he intends to do—what about school? Maniac explains that nobody can make him attend school if they can’t find him. Grayson looks at Maniac “with a mixture of puzzlement and recognition.”

***Analysis Part 1:***

Grayson continues to show care and concern for Maniac’s needs. Beyond that, Maniac’s defiant avoidance of school feels familiar to Grayson, suggesting that the two will find a deeper connection as time goes on.

***Summary Part 2:***

When [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) asks [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) why he won’t go to school, Maniac can’t put the answer into words. It has to do with his lack of a home. All the other kids at school have homes to go to. Only Maniac would be stuck having one without the other. He tells Grayson that if Grayson tries to make him go to school, he’ll just run away.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Maniac thinks about his avoidance of school and realizes it’s closely tied to his homelessness—going to school would only highlight what he lacks.