***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 28***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 28. Grayson’s reading ability is blossoming and one night he reads The Little Engine That Could cover to cover for Maniac. As Grayson finishes the book, a smile comes over Maniac’s face and he shouts “A-men!” hugging Grayson tightly. Maniac makes Grayson a corn muffin with his toaster oven and serves him apple juice as a celebratory snack. Maniac suggests that Grayson stay over for the night and the old man reluctantly agrees.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

It takes [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) an hour to read The Little Engine That Could. When he finishes, he’s surprised when [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) doesn’t jump and cheer like before; instead, he quietly says, “Amen.” Maniac explains what he learned in the Beales’ church—that “Amen” isn’t just for the end of a prayer, but for when somebody says or does something you really like. Then Maniac gives Grayson a big hug.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Even in his elderly years, Grayson has achieved something new that required tremendous courage and effort from him. Maniac’s quiet word of affirmation recognizes the gravity of his friend’s accomplishment.

***Summary Part 2:***

By now, [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee)’s room has been furnished with various items [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) has brought him—among other things, a space heater, refrigerator, blankets, and a toaster oven. Maniac fixes Grayson a celebratory corn muffin and apple juice. Maniac persuades Grayson to stay the night. As Grayson drifts off to sleep, he feels unburdened for the first time in 37 years, warmed by Maniac’s affection. He whispers, “Amen.”

***Analysis Part 2:***

Maniac and Grayson have established a home together—an unconventional one, but a home nonetheless. Grayson’s achievement means a great deal to him, but what truly warms his heart and reconnects him with a sense of dignity is Maniac’s affection. This, too, is what makes their apartment a real home—not just the furnishings.