***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 31***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 31. In the early morning hours, Grayson and Maniac venture out to the woods to find their Christmas tree beautifully covered with snow. Next, they head to the zoo to visit the animals. Back at home, they exchange gifts between themselves. Maniac gives Grayson a cap, a pair of gloves, and a book he wrote himself entitled The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays. Maniac receives Grayson’s prized baseball glove from his stint in the minors and a brand new ball. In addition, Maniac receives a box of Krimpets and a pair of gloves. The young boy is overcome with happiness and the gift exchange is a very special moment between the two. The chapter alludes to the fact that Grayson will be found dead 5 days later.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

Early on Christmas morning, [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) and [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson) venture out into the still-dark morning. They visit their tree in the woods. They wander through the zoo, wishing a merry Christmas to the animals. Maniac gives the baby buffalo a scarf. Then they go home for breakfast and gifts. Among Maniac’s gifts for Grayson is a handmade book titled, The Man Who Struck Out Willie Mays. Among Grayson’s gifts for Maniac is the baseball glove he’d used in the Minors. Maniac can’t take his eyes off it. But five days later, Grayson dies.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Christmas is a culmination of Maniac’s and Grayson’s relationship. Their gifts to each other (and to the animals) are tokens of their existing love, knowledge, and respect for one another. Yet the happiness Maniac experiences in his new home isn’t to last—he’s on the precipice of yet another loss.