***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 33***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 33. Maniac returns briefly to the baseball closet to pick up a few essentials including books and Grayson’s baseball glove. He spends the next series of days roaming the area around Two Mills and returning to the buffalo pen each night. He continues indefinitely with this way of life and one day finds himself in Valley Forge sleeping in a replica of an army shelter. Hungry and weak, Maniac lies in the shelter for two days waiting to die.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) grieves. He drifts around, eating only enough to stay alive. He collects a few belongings from the band shell—mainly books and [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson)’s baseball glove. Before leaving the band shell, he paints over the 101 on the door.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Without Grayson, Maniac’s new home is no longer a home. And without family or home, Maniac loses his sense of purpose.

***Summary Part 2:***

After leaving the band shell, [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) wanders, usually jogging, sometimes sprinting, through Two Mills and all the surrounding towns. Each time he crosses the Schuylkill River, he averts his eyes from the P & W trolley trestle. He can’t stop from imagining the trolley plunging into the river, carrying his parents to their deaths. After a while, he avoids the bridge altogether.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Grayson’s death brings the memory of Maniac’s parents’ deaths more vividly to the forefront of his mind. He wanders again, fearful of facing deeper grief and loss and so not wanting to stop in any one spot.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) spends his nights in the buffalo pen, or sometimes in an abandoned car or vacant building. He does odd jobs but refuses to beg for food. One day, he wanders into Valley Forge—the site where Washington’s army had nearly starved and frozen to death one winter. Maniac lodges in one of the small replica cabins. He stays there the next day, too, and the next night. Dreams and memories get mixed up. He's waiting for death.

***Analysis Part 3:***

When Maniac stops running, he surrenders to the idea of death. Grief has overwhelmed him, and he is no longer willing to fight for a sense of home and identity that repeatedly eludes him and leaves him grieving.