***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 37***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 37. At Piper and Russell’s request, Maniac continues to do a number of daring feats throughout February and March. The dares range from hitting a telephone pole sixty one times in a row to climbing into the pen to give the baby buffalo a kiss. Piper and Russell, the masterminds of the feats, are enjoying the recognition they are receiving. To Maniac, the dares are part of a successful attempt to keep the boys in school. One day, Maniac is faced with his biggest challenge yet. He’s asked to venture back into the East End.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Finsterwald](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/finsterwald)’s is the first of many heroic feats [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) performs. He races a freight train and wins; he walks barefoot through a rat-infested dump; he climbs into the buffalo pen at the zoo and kisses a baby buffalo (that one is his idea). He sees himself as paying [Piper and Russell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/piper-and-russell-mcnab)’s “tuition” to make sure they keep going to school. The boys, meanwhile, feel more and more important because of their association with Maniac. But one week, they give him “the most perilous challenge of all”—to enter the East End.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Maniac continues nurturing the McNab boys in his own untraditional way—keeping them in school (hence not running away, and away from their dad’s and brother’s influence) by doing things nobody else dares. To the boys, entering the East End is the scariest dare they can imagine.