***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 41***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 41. Maniac shows up for Russell and Piper’s birthday party with none other than Mars Bar. Maniac convinces Mars that he should go with him to the party to prove he is as tough as he claims. Crossing from the East End to the West End is a major feat and he assures Mars doing this will prove he’s the toughest around. Mars agrees to cross into the West End and Maniac takes him first to the Pickwell’s home. The Pickwells serve the boys dinner and boost Mars’ ego by cheering in awe as he stops traffic with the evil in his eyes.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Piper and Russell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/piper-and-russell-mcnab) never expected [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) to walk into their house with a black kid. But there’s [Mars Bar Thompson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/mars-bar-thompson), standing casually in their living room. Maniac had remembered [Grayson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/earl-grayson)’s remarks about black families and realized that when people never venture inside each other’s homes, harmful misconceptions grow. So Maniac challenged Mars Bar to come over to the East Side; if he didn’t, Maniac goaded, then that would make Maniac “badder” than him.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Maniac has the right instinct about the roots of racism in Two Mills: that it stems from ignorance of one another’s lives. This shows that Maniac has matured in his understanding of the situation in Two Mills since he first arrived there. Still, he brings Mars Bar blindly into a situation that Mars Bar isn’t prepared for.

***Summary Part 2:***

But before the McNabs’, [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) takes [Mars Bar](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/mars-bar-thompson) to the Pickwells’, wanting Mars Bar to experience the best of the West End. All 16 Pickwells welcome Mars Bar and make a fuss over him. The kids beg him to perform his trick of stopping traffic with nothing but a nonchalant shuffle and a glare. Mars Bar softens slightly, enjoying the fact that his tough reputation has spread to the West Side. But Maniac knows things will be different at “Fort McNab.”

***Analysis Part 2:***

Where the McNabs are the worst that Two Mills’ West End has to offer, the Pickwells are the best. Maniac wants Mars Bar to experience their warmth and love before he encounters the McNabs, hoping that Mars Bar will be able to see some potential in the latter, too.