***Maniac Magee***

***Chapter 46***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Chapter 46. Maniac is awaken once again by Amanda who was sent by Mars to get him. Amanda, in her typical sassy way, demands Maniac apologize for making her sneak out to retrieve him. She continues by saying Maniac should get up so he can go home forever. Maniac resists but Amanda will not take no for an answer. Maniac gets up and heads home with Amanda and Mars by his side. Maniac receives what he has wanted for so long, a call to come home!

***Critical Study(41-46):***

Maniac and Mars’ arrival at the party is the climax of part three. Bringing a black kid into the West End is brave but bringing Mars into the McNab home is monumental. True to form, John McNab leaves the party and refuses to come out of his room.

The youngest children seem to be unaffected by Mars and their behavior is similar to Hester and Lester Beale’s reaction to Maniac.

Although the party ends with a near fight, the event is important for several reasons. First, it proves Maniac has the capability of bringing people from both neighborhoods together albeit unsuccessfully. Before this occasion, it would have been unheard of for an East Ender to step foot into a West Ender’s home. Secondly, the event is important because it revolves around both neighborhoods’ main antagonists, Mars and McNab. The two have a powerful hold on the opinions and actions of the masses and Maniac recognizes that. If he can unite these two characters, Maniac will have faced his most difficult challenge.

Maniac continues with his normal routines and begins to notice Mars is following him on his daily run. Although unsure as to why he is following him, it can be asserted Mars is developing an interest and fascination with Maniac. Maniac’s bravery in regard to standing up against discrimination captures the attention of Mars who desperately wants to be known as “brave” also.

When Piper approaches Maniac to tell him Russell is in danger and stuck on the train trestle, Maniac freezes and essentially blacks out. Maniac is brave and perseverant to anything and everything but the train trestle. Memories of his parents’ death and his subsequent abandonment prove to be more than he can mentally overcome in that moment.

When Maniac wakes up to find Mars looking over him, the young loner is startled. Upon learning that Mars saved Russell on the train trestle and the two have become friends, it becomes clear that Maniac’s wish has come true. He has taken the town’s two most hateful antagonists, Mars and McNab, and gained a slight edge in his quest for peaceful coexistence. Maniac finds joy in the news but still yearns for an address and family of his own.

Maniac is startled yet again by Amanda’s voice. She has come to take him back home to the Beale’s. Reluctant and guarded by his previous experiences, Maniac resists but soon succumbs to Amanda’s request. Maniac, Amanda, and Mars take off into the night. Maniac now has a family and has succeeded in his quest for unity in the town of Two Mills. For this, he is, and will forever be, a legend.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) is awakened by someone wrenching his ear. It’s [Amanda](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/amanda-beale), angrily flinging straw at him. She yells at Maniac that he has a lot to be sorry for. He rejected Snickers’s invitation to his house (she’s renamed [Mars Bar](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/mars-bar-thompson) so he doesn’t sound so “bad”), and Snickers woke her up and made her sneak out of her house. Maniac laughs for the first time in a long time.

***Analysis Part 1:***

A short time later, Amanda—probably the only person who can talk sense into Maniac—interrupts his self-pity by reminding him how much he’s loved.

***Summary Part 2:***

When [Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) refuses to come to [Amanda](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/amanda-beale)’s house, either, she rants at him—she’s not asking him, she’s telling him. Maniac is going to sleep at her house tonight and all the nights after that, she says firmly—the zoo is not his home.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Amanda’s rant shows Maniac that maybe it’s not entirely up to him where his home is. Even if he tries to hold himself back from the risks of love, in other words, real love demands that he give in.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Maniac](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/jeffrey-lionel-maniac-magee) finally gets up and follows [Amanda](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/amanda-beale), boosting her out of the buffalo pen and walking along with her and Snickers/[Mars Bar](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/maniac-magee/characters/mars-bar-thompson). Amanda continues to rant about how much trouble Maniac causes, and he just lets her talk. He knows that “at long last, someone [is] calling him home.”

***Analysis Part 3:***

Maniac finally relents, hearing in Amanda’s rant the love of a sister and the promise of a home where he really belongs. The simplicity of the story’s ending confirms Maniac’s instinct that friendship finally overcomes division, even if it only happens one friend, one home, and one community at a time.