

Chapter 13

In this chapter of "Maniac Magee," Amanda willingly gives up her room for Maniac, giving her a chance to sleep with her younger siblings, Hester and Lester. While the little ones can be bothersome during the day, at night, Amanda enjoys having them close. Mr. Beale separates their room with plywood, allowing Amanda to keep her belongings in the back while Maniac continues to stay in her old room with her suitcase of books.

Maniac quickly adapts to his new environment, engaging in various activities with Hester and Lester. He entertains them with stories and play, helps with housework by washing dishes and cleaning up after himself, much to Amanda's surprise. Mrs. Beale marvels at Maniac's ability to maintain his room in impeccable condition, finding it almost untouched.

However, Maniac's sleeping habits are unusual; he prefers the floor over a bed, as he finds lying on a mattress uncomfortable. His quirks extend to sitting on the floor instead of on chairs. As his presence changes the household dynamics, the Beales notice that the yellow bucket and sponge remain unused, as Maniac starts entertaining the children and encourages them to engage in activities that don't involve destructive scribbling.

With Maniac's influence, Amanda begins to leave her suitcase of books at home, and Hester and Lester's disinterest in bathing shifts positively. They once prided themselves on refusing baths unless Amanda joined them, resulting in a prolonged bath strike. However, once Maniac enters their lives, he is invited to join their baths, breaking the cycle of resistance.

One memorable Sunday, Maniac reluctantly agrees to bathe with the little ones, leading to a cheerful scene that lasts well beyond their planned schedule. The new room arrangement brings a blend of chaos and laughter into the Beales' home. However, an alarming moment occurs when Maniac develops red blotches after a bath, prompting a visit to the doctor. The family discovers that he has an unusual allergy to pizza, which surprises everyone and highlights the unique adventures that accompany Maniac's presence in their lives.