

Maus Study Guide

Directions: While reading Art Spiegelman’s Pulitzer-Prize-winning graphic novel, *Maus*, answer the following questions. You do **NOT** have to write your responses in complete sentences, but make sure that your answers are thorough and analytical, which means that you will need to write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Then, for each chapter, pick a panel or page for discussion. Write brief, bullet-pointed analysis or an analytical question. Make sure that your panel is clearly explained and discussed as part of each chapter in your study guide, because the panel analyses comprise most of your study guide grade for *Maus*.

Keep up with the study guide questions, because 1) they will function as your reading check, in place of reading quizzes and 2) they will help aid you in class discussion.

Part 1: My Father Bleeds History

1. How does Spiegelman depict his main character?

Chapter 1: “The Sheik”

1. What is his first story about?
2. Spiegelman adds himself into the comic – he breaks the 4th wall by having his main character show the process of recording his father’s experiences of the Holocaust, the very story that the reader is reading. How does Spiegelman differentiate the dialogue of present day (Vladek telling his son the story) with the story itself (the flashbacks of Vladek’s life)?

Chapter 2: “The Honeymoon”

3. What is Vladek counting?
4. What are the other animals present in this part of the story?

Chapter 3: “Prisoner of War”

5. How does Vladek initially avoid getting drafted for the war?
6. How did Vladek stay healthy in the prisoner of war camp?

Chapter 4: “The Noose Tightens”

7. What does the family discuss at the dinner table?
8. What Nazi action haunts Vladek?

Chapter 5: “Mouse Holes”

9. What is “Prisoner on the Hell Planet”?
10. How do the Nazis eventually find Vladek’s family?

Chapter 6: “Mouse Trap”

11. Where do Anja and Vladek hide?
12. When Anja and Vladek are hiding in Mrs. Motonowa’s cellar, what scares Anja?

Part 2: And Here My Troubles Began

Chapter 1: "Mauschwitz"

13. What is Artie trying to figure out about his book?
14. Artie has reservations about selecting comics as the medium through which he wants to tell his father's story. Why are comics unfit for this dark, historical story?
15. Who was the kapo, the supervisor?

Chapter 2: "Auschwitz (Time Flies)"

16. What happens to Artie as he gets all of the publicity? Hint: look at how he physically changes.
17. Why does Anja's Kapo start treating her better?

Chapter 3: "And Here My Troubles Began"

18. How does Vladek survive the trip out of Auschwitz?
19. Why is Vladek upset that they pick up a hitch hiker?

Chapter 4: "Saved"

20. What animal represents Americans?
21. Why can't Vladek install the storm windows?

Chapter 5: "The Second Honeymoon"

22. The Gelbers' son arrived in Sosnowiec before Vladek – what happened to Gelbers' son?
23. What are Vladek's closing words?