

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Maus I Study Guide: Prologue – Chapter 3

Mrs. Howard

Prologue

As you read, notice:

- Pictures on title pages
- Repeated images
- Details
- Pictures bleeding over boundaries
- Symbolism

1. What literary device is Spiegelman using in *Maus*'s subtitle, "My Father Bleeds History"?

2. Briefly characterize Artie's father's response to Artie's problem in this mini-chapter. What kind of response is it? What does it reveal to us about this father-son relationship?

Chapter One: The Sheik

Narrative Structure:

- The narrator is the author/artist. He narrates in the first person but also tells the story through images and dialogue.
- A grown up, Artie interviews his aging dad about life.
- Vladek tells about the events leading to the Holocaust, during the Holocaust and before Artie was born.

Setting:

- Artie and his dad interact in the present time while the interviews are being conducted in Rego Park, New York from the 1970's to the 1980's.
- Vladek part of the story takes place from the late 1930's to the mid-1940's in Poland.

1. What is the first thing we learn about Artie's mother?
2. Describe Vladek's relationship with his second wife Mala.
3. We finally get our first shot of Artie's father as a young man. What do you make of the shape Spiegelman uses for this panel?
4. In chapter 1, Vladek tells Artie that people used to say he looked like which movie star?
5. Look at the fifth panel on page 14. This is an example of visual symbolism from *Maus* that conveys significant information to the reader. What information do we get about Artie,...their relationship? (focus on image, not dialogue)
6. Why did Vladek take English lessons in his youth?

7. How does the director of Anja's school describe Anja to Vladek?

8. Why does Vladek snoop in Anja's closet when visiting the Zylberbergs? What does he find there?

9. What does Vladek's automatic decision to write down every pill Anja is taking reveal about him, along with his comment, "If she was sick, then what did I need it for"?

10. Briefly describe the Zylberbergs' economic status.

11. Contrast Lucia Greenburg with Anja Zylberberg. Why do you think Vladek chose Anja?

Chapter Two: The Honeymoon

1. What do the words and images on the title page of this chapter seem to foreshadow?

2. Why is Miss Stefanska, the seamstress who lives down the hall from Vladek, arrested?

3. What political party is Anja involved with, and how does Vladek react to the news of her involvement?

4. Explain how Vladek became wealthy before the war.

5. At what point does Anja first start to feel suicidal? How does Spiegelman visually emphasize her despair?

6. What does Vladek see for the first time while traveling to Czechoslovakia?

7. What new and redeeming quality does Vladek exhibit as he dances with Anja at the café?

8. How does Spiegelman portray the non-Jewish Poles?

9. Why does Vladek think that Sosnowiec will be a safer place for Jews than Bielsko?

10. Why must Anja and Vladek part ways at the end of the chapter?

Chapter Three: Prisoners of War

Setting – 1939:

- The Poles are fighting the Germans who have taken control of Poland at the start of World War II. Germany has annexed the western part of Poland closest to the border of Germany (called Reich), and turned the central part of Poland into a protectorate. Lublin, an important Polish city, is in the protectorate. The eastern part of Poland has been annexed by Russia.
- Vladek, who served in the Polish army for 18 months when he was 21 and who has gone for military training in Lublin every four years, has been drafted by Poland and fights on the border of Poland and Germany.
- He becomes a German POW and is taken into Germany near Nuremberg. When he is released, he is sent by train to Lublin. From there, he sneaks back to Sosnowiec, which is in the Reich, to be with his family.

1. How had Vladek's father tried to keep him from military service?
2. Describe Vladek's extremely brief career as a Polish soldier.
3. What do the Nazis see as proof that Vladek has never had to work hard in his life?
4. In what ways does Vladek immediately stand out as more practical and self-motivated than his fellow prisoners?
5. Explain the significance of **Parshas Truma** to Vladek.

6. The rabbi calls Vladek a “Roh-eh Hanoled.” What did this mean?

7. When forced to ride the train past Sosnowiec and all the way to Lublin, what did Vladek hear had happened to the last train load of Jews to arrive there?

8. How does Spiegelman visually describe the German’s attitude towards killing a Jew?

9. How does Vladek come to have chocolate to give to Orbach’s daughters? What does his possession of the chocolate say about his character?

10. How does Spiegelman visually portray Vladek’s attempt to pass for a Pole on the train?

11. What incident at the end of the chapter speaks of the generation (in addition to personality) gap between Vladek and Artie? What habit of Artie’s is Vladek unable to understand?

