Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Maus Pre-Reading: Emotion

Ms. Dillman

Objective: Understanding how facial expressions convey emotion

Activity:

Art Spiegelman, the author of *Maus,* gives the following explanation about his use of comics to tell a story about serious subjects:

I prefer the word "commix," to mix together, because to talk about comics is to talk about mixing together words and pictures to tell a story…The strength of commix lies in its synthetic ability to approximate a "mental language" that is closer to actual human thought than either words or pictures alone.

One way Spiegelman helps the reader understand the thoughts and feelings the characters in *Maus* is by drawing different facial expressions, which convey emotions. For instance, a wide-open mouth is often used to express shock, outrage, or intense pain.

Browse through the pages of the book. Choose one or two frames of drawing. For each frame, explain the feelings you get from the facial expressions. What meaning is being communicated from just the drawing without reading the words? We will share our frames and answers.