

Name\_\_\_\_\_

English 10

Period\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Filor

*Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* Reading Guide

**Maus I Prologue pgs. 5-6**

**Parts:**

Narrator (Artie as an adult)—read the speech above frames or in boxes

Artie as a kid—in stripes

Friend—pg. 5

Vladek—Artie's dad, wears spectacles

**Notes:**

Reading a comic—

- Read left to right
- Read top to bottom
- Page tends to be split into 3-4 rows
- There tend to be 1-3 panels (pictures contained in boxes) per row

Notice—

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

**Questions:**

1. How is Vladek characterized here? How about Artie?
2. How does the prologue set the tone for the novel?
3. Consider the symbolism of the mouse. What does it mean and how does it affect the reader?

**Important Image: What is one important image from the chapter and why?**

## **Maus I Chapter 1—"The Sheik" pgs. 11-25**

### **Parts:**

Narrator

Artie as an adult—in a vest, often smokes

Vladek

Mala—Vladek's wife in the present (not Artie's mom)

Yulek—Vladek's friend, pg. 15

Lucia—Vladek's girlfriend from the past

Vladek's cousin—in a black coat, pgs. 17-18

Anja—in a spotted coat, initially

School Director—pg. 20

Anja's dad—first seen on pg. 21

Anja's mom—in an apron

### **Notes:**

Narrative Structure—

- The narrator is the author/artist. He narrates in 1<sup>st</sup> person, but also tells the story through images and dialogue.
- A grown up Artie interviews his aging dad about his life at the beginning and end of each chapter.
- Vladek tells about the events leading to the Holocaust and during, before Artie was born. Artie has drawn these events and used his father's voice in 1<sup>st</sup> person in the middle of each chapter.

Setting—

- Artie and his dad interact in the present time while the interviews are being conducted (the book was written from the 1970's to the 1980's).
- Vladek's part of the story takes place from the late 1930's to the mid-1940's.

### **Questions:**

1. What is a sheik? Who is the sheik in this chapter?
2. How does Vladek's treatment of Lucia characterize him?
3. How is Anja characterized?
4. How does Artie's including this part of Vladek's history, even though Vladek asked him not to, characterize him?

**Important Image: What is one important image from the chapter and why?**

## **Maus I Chapter 2—"The Honeymoon" pgs. 27-42**

### **Parts:**

Artie as an adult—in a vest, often smokes

Vladek

Anja

Friend #1—pg. 29

Friend #2—pg. 29

Anja's mom

Anja's dad

Police—pg. 30

Mrs. Stefanska—pg. 30

Train passenger #1—pg. 34

Train passenger #2—pg. 35

Janina—Richieu's governess, represented as a pig pg. 39

### **Questions:**

1. What happens to Anja after she gives birth to Richieu?
2. How might having a mother with emotional difficulties and a brother who didn't make it out of the Holocaust affect a person?
3. What animals are non-Jewish Poles? Why?
4. How does Vladek treat Artie? What kind of man is Vladek?
5. How does Vladek's "honeymoon" turn out?

**Important Image: What is one important image from the chapter and why?**

### **Maus I Chapter 3—"Prisoner of War" pgs. 43-71**

#### **Parts:**

Artie, Vladek, Mala

Vladek's dad—has whiskers, pg. 48

Polish soldier from Vladek's youth—pg. 48

Doctor—pg. 48

Polish officer—pg. 49

Nazi soldier—pg. 51 on

Nazi officer—pg. 52 on

4 Jewish soldiers—read them in order in a frame starting on pg. 55

Vladek's grandfather—pg. 59

Rabbi—pg. 59

Jewish authority—pg. 63

Orbach—Vladek's uncle's friend, pg. 65

Daughter #1—in black, pg. 65

Daughter #2—in polka dots, pg. 65

Polish train man—pg. 66

Vladek's mom—in checks, pg. 67

Anja—in polka dots, pg. 68

Richieu

#### **Notes:**

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 P.O.W. 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.

#### **Questions:**

1. How does Vladek treat Artie in this chapter?
2. How does Vladek feel about Mala?

**Important Image:** What is one important image from the chapter and why?

## **Maus I Chapter 4—"The Noose Tightens" pgs. 73-95**

### **Parts:**

Vladek—in a tie on pg. 77

Artie

Anja—in black on pg. 77

Anja's mom—in checks

Anja's dad—has whiskers

Tosha—in a white jacket, Anja's older sister

Wolfe—Tosha's husband, in a bowtie

Anja's grandfather—in bifocals on pg. 78

Anja's grandmother—in bifocals and a shawl pg. 78

Mr. Ilzecki—tailor, former customer of Vladek, white fedora and pipe on pg. 79

cloth shop owner—pg. 79

tin shop owner—in apron on pg. 80

card player—in stripes on pg. 81

Gestapo-pg. 81 and 92

Szklarczyk—grocery store owner on pg. 87

Jewish police—pg. 89

Gemeinde member—pg. 90

Jewish bystanders—on pg. 90

Vladek's father—in long coat on pg. 91

Richieu

Mala

### **Questions:**

1. How is Vladek characterized once he returns to Sosnowiec after being a p.o.w.?
2. What would have happened to Richieu if Vladek had given him to Ilzecki?
3. Where does the family have to move in 1942?
4. What disturbs Vladek greatly in this chapter?
5. Why did the Jews have to go to the stadium?
6. What happens to Anja's grandparents?
7. What happens to Vladek's dad and sister and her children?
8. What happened to Mala and her family?

### **Important image:**

**“Prisoner on the Hell Planet: A Case History” pgs. 102-105**

**Questions:**

1. What is the subject of this comic within a comic?
2. Where had Artie been prior to this event?
3. Does this section explain Artie’s estrangement from his father? How?
4. How is the style of this comic different from *Maus*?
5. Art Spiegelman published “Prisoner on the Hell Planet” prior to *Maus*. Why do you think he includes it in *Maus*?
6. Why does Art depict himself as a prisoner?
7. What do you notice about the images of hands on these pages? Why are they shown that way?
8. How does the use of a real photograph on page 102 affect the reader?
9. How does this entire section affect the reader?
10. What is one important image from this section? Why did you choose it?

## **Maus / Chapter 5—"Mouse Holes" pgs. 97-129**

### **Parts:**

Artie, Francoise, Mala, Anja

Vladek—in a black fedora and white trench coat on pg. 108

Lolek—Anja and Vladek's nephew, in a cap and coat with a striped shirt pg. 108

Uncle Persis—in a black bowler on pg. 109

Anja's mom—in checks on pg. 109

Anja's dad—in a bowtie and has whiskers on pg. 109

Woman—with head scarf on pg. 111

Tosha—in window on pg. 111

Stranger—with striped tie and hair sticking up on pg. 115

Gestapo—on pg. 115

Jakov—in overalls, sleeves rolled up on pg. 116

Haskel—looks like Jewish police on pg. 117

Miloch—Haskel's brother, works in shoe shop on pg. 119

Jewish worker—buries bodies on pg. 119

Jewish cake eater—in white on pg. 121

Pesach—Haskel's other brother, also Jewish police pg. 121

Baby—on pg. 125

Gutcha—the baby's mother on pg. 125

Banker—pictured as a dog on pg. 127

### **Questions:**

1. What does Vladek expect of Artie? Is it fair?
2. What does Vladek find and read of Artie's? How does it affect him?
3. Where did Vladek's family have to move?
4. What happened to Richieu?
5. Where did the family hide? Did it work?
6. What happened to Anja's parents?
7. What does Vladek pick out of the garbage on pg. 118? Why?
8. How did Anja, Vladek, and Lolek manage to stay in the ghetto?
9. Where did Anja and Vladek hide when the Germans liquidated the ghetto?
10. What role did Vladek play in Anja's life?
11. Why does Vladek take Artie to the bank?
12. Why is this chapter called mouse holes?

### **Important Image:**

## **Maus / Chapter 6—"Mouse Trap" pg. 131-161**

### **Parts:**

Artie, Mala, Vladek

Anja—in a hat with a feather on pg. 138

Janina—Richieu's former governess, on pg. 138

Mr. Lukowski—the janitor of Anja's father's old house, on pg. 138

Old Witch—on pg. 139

Jewish man—also wears a pig mask, wears a white fedora on pg. 140

Polish merchant—wears a head scarf on pg. 140

Leo—a friend from before the war, wears a black cap on pg. 141

Leo's friend—wears a white fedora and a striped shirt on pg. 141

Mrs. Kawka—a farmer on the outskirts of town, pg. 141

Mrs. Motonowa—a merchant with a polka dot head scarf on pg. 143

Mrs. Motonowa's 7 year old son—pg. 144

Mailman—pg. 145

Polish child—pg. 151

Child's mother—in a checked dress and apron on pg. 151

Mr. Mandelbaum—sweets shop owner before the war, in a black bowler pg. 152

Smuggler #1—pig in a black cap on pg. 152

Abraham—Mandelbaum's nephew, wears bifocals and a white fedora on pg. 152

Janitor of Miloch's house—pig in a flower dress on pg. 154

Guest #1—pig in a white bowler on pg. 154

Guest #2—pig in a black cap on pg. 154

Guest #3—pig in a striped cap on pg. 154

Miloch—in a garbage hole on pg. 155

Gestapo—on train on pg. 157

Polish prison guard—pg. 158

Polish prisoner #1—a pig with no tie on pg. 158

Polish prisoner #2—a pig in a checked coat on pg. 158

### **Questions:**

1. What are the places Vladek and Anja hide in this chapter?
2. What becomes their undoing?
3. What happened to Miloch?
4. Where are Vladek and Anja sent?
5. Why does Artie call Vladek a murderer? Do you agree with calling Vladek that?

### **Important Image:**