from Maus

Media Vocabulary

The following words will be useful to you as you analyze, discuss, and write about graphic novels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>term</th>
<th>definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>panel</td>
<td>individual frame of a graphic novel depicting a single moment</td>
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<td>encapsulation</td>
<td>choice of which scenes to capture, or display, in panels</td>
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<td>speech balloon</td>
<td>display of what a character is speaking or thinking</td>
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- The panels work together to tell a story.
- The panels cannot show everything that happens, so readers must use their imaginations to fill in the blanks.
- The layout and choice of the scenes drives the readers’ interpretations.
- Graphic novelists can use different sizes and shapes to give more or less weight to scenes.
- The size, shape, and color of the speech balloon can show the emotion of the speaker.
- Speech balloons can also show emotion through the use of punctuation marks and musical symbols.

First Review MEDIA: GRAPHIC NOVEL

Apply these strategies as you conduct your first review. You will have an opportunity to a close review after your first review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOOK</th>
<th>NOTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOOK</td>
<td>at each image and determine whom or what it portrays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTE</td>
<td>elements in each image that you find interesting and want to revisit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connect</td>
<td>details in the images to other media you’ve experienced, texts you’ve read, or images you’ve seen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respond</td>
<td>by completing the Comprehension Check.</td>
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STANDARDS

Reading Literature
By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Language
Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
BACKGROUND

In *Maus*, Art Spiegelman tells the story of his parents, Vladek and Anja Spiegelman, who survived the Holocaust. At the start of this excerpt, Vladek and Anja are living in hiding with Mrs. Motonowa, whose husband does not know she is hiding Jews. They arrange a meeting with smugglers at the house of a woman named Mrs. Kawka to discuss plans to be smuggled out of Poland.
When I arrived to Kawka, the two smugglers were there together sitting in the kitchen...

Please wait in the other room. They'll see you soon.

Mr. Mandelbaum!

Vladek Spiegelman!

Mandelbaum, before the war owned a sweets shop.

Anja and I bought always pastries there. He used to be a very rich man in Sosnowiec.

This is my wife... and you know my nephew.

Hello, Abraham. What are you all doing here?

We're trying to get out of Poland...

Yes. Anja and I are trying to arrange that too!

Back when it was the ghetto, Abraham was a big member of the Jewish Council.

The smugglers proposed us how they would do.

...and at the border, our partners will take you through the mountains.

We spoke Yiddish so the poles don't understand.

Niek, was denkst die?

Yech kenn die Frau Kawka, über yech bin nish zicher, vegen die zwei.

So, what do you think?

I know Mrs. Kawka, but I'm not sure about these two.

The others want to think about it a little longer, but I'm ready to go now.

Fine. Fine.

I agreed with Mandelbaum to meet again here. If it came a good letter, we'll go.
But if ever I talked of this plan to Anja...

No, Vladek! You're crazy! It's too dangerous!

But if we hear from Abraham—

We're safe here. Forget about Hungary!

But what do we do if the Gestapo comes to search for illegal goods? ...What if a neighbor notices us through the kitchen window?...

I'm not going!

What if her husband finds out about us? Even the boy could let something slip! ...This war could last another 14 or 5 years. What do we do when our money runs out?

Please!

In Hungary we could be free to walk the streets again, like human beings... I've always taken care of you. Trust me.

I'm so scared. Sob.

Don't do it, Mr. Spiegelman... it's just not safe! You don't know anything about these smugglers.

Snf. It's like talking to a wall.

We won't go unless we hear that our friend got through.

I've had awful nightmares about your trip. Please stay with me.

Wait—now where are you going? To visit my cousin and see where he's hiding. If we do go to Hungary, he may be better off here with you.

Nif. Mioduch helped me in Srodula. Maybe now, if he needed, I could help him.
I think it's safe to go down. Are you still carrying food for Milo? I fed them earlier. This is just trash.

The conditions how Milo was living—you couldn't believe.

...I always bring garbage so the neighbors don't get suspicious. P.S. Milo, your cousin is here.

In each courtyard was a very deep hole to throw in all the garbage.

Inside this garbage hole was here separated a tiny space—maybe only 5 feet by 6 feet.

Vladek! I'm glad you're still alive!

My god!

I looked down only for a second, but in there was living Milo, his wife and their 3-year-old boy.

How can you live there? You must be freezing!

We have no choice. At least our bunker is underground.

And the decomposing garbage gives some heat.

But people know you're in there...

What can we do? Listen—Anja and I may be going to Hungary...

I'll come again when I have more news, but it's very late now—I must get back home.

I explained our hiding place was not perfect, but better than his.

And I was lucky, nobody made me any questions going back to Szopiencie.
A few days after, I came again to the smugglers. And Mandelbaum was also there.

Look, Vladek—my nephew is safe! They brought me a letter from him.

It was in Yiddish and it was signed really by Abraham. So we agreed right away to go ahead.

But Anja just didn’t want we would go...

Please, Vladek! Call it off!

But it’s all arranged. I’ve even given them half their money!

No! No! No! It’s some kind of trick!

Be reasonable. I saw Abraham’s letter with my own eyes!

Wh-what did it say?

“Dear aunt and uncle, everything is wonderful here. I arrived safely. I’m free and happy. Don’t lose a minute. Join me as soon as you can. Your loving nephew, Abraham.”

I-I don’t know...

We leave the day after tomorrow from the Katowice train station.

And finally I convinced her.

So, I went one more time over to Miloch in his garbage bunker and directed him how he must go to Szopiencie and hide...

But, for Anja and I, it was for us waiting another destiny...

We came with no problem by trolley car to our meeting point with the Mandelbaums and the smugglers.

And, you know, Miloch and his wife and boy, they all survived themselves the whole war... sitting there... with Motornowa...

Everything is arranged. Here are your tickets.
DO YOU HAVE THE REST OF OUR PAYMENT?

YES. OF COURSE. HERE.

WHERE IS YOUR PARTNER GOING?

HE'S PHONING AHEAD TO THE MEN WHO WILL MEET YOU AT THE BORDER. HE'LL JOIN US ON THE TRAIN—DON'T WORRY!

BUT, OF COURSE, WE DID WORRY...

SO, ALL OF US TOGETHER STARTED ON OUR JOURNEY...

WE TRAVELED LESS THAN AN HOUR TIL WE CAME TO BIELSKO-BIALA. HERE I USED TO HAVE MY FACTORY AND HERE THE SMUGGLERS DISAPPEARED.

IT WAS A BIG COMMOTION—GESTAPO CAME ON EVERY SIDE

JUDEN RAUS!

HERE THEY ARE!

IN KATOWICE, IT WAS ONLY TO THEM THE SMUGGLER PHONED.

THEY MARCHED US THROUGH THE CITY OF BIELSKO. WE PASSED BY THE FACTORY WHAT ONCE I OWNED...

WE PASSED THE MARKET WHERE ALWAYS WE BOUGHT TO EAT, AND PASSED EVEN THE STREET WHERE WE USED TO LIVE, AND WE CAME TIL THE PRISON, AND THERE THEY PUT US.
I had a small bag to travel when they registered me in, they looked over everything.

What's this? Shoe polish?! Yes. I like to keep myself neat.

With a spoon he took out, little by little, all the polish.

Well, well... a gold watch. You Jews always have gold.

Wrapped in foil, I kept it hidden there... it was my last treasure.

Wait a minute! What ever happened to Abraham?

Ph. Mandelbaum's nephew! Yes. He finished the same as us to concentration camp.

Yes, I'll tell you how it was with him. But now I'm telling here in the prison.

Here we got very little to eat—maybe soup one time a day—and we sat with nothing to do.

Why don't they put us to work like the rest of you? It means you won't be here very long...

...every week or so a truck takes some of the prisoners away. Excuse me... do any of you know German?

My family just sent me a food parcel. If I write back they'll send another, but we're only allowed to write German.

In a short time he got again a package... you did a great job! Take anything you want for you and your friend!

It was eggs there... it was even chocolates. I was very lucky to get such goodies!
A few days later the trucks came. They pushed in maybe 100 of us.

One more time I was together with Anja.

Here, darling. I have a present for you... Eggs?! Cake ??? What? How?...

I had still things I got by writing this letter.

No... you keep it... I'm not hungry.

Here... at least take half for later.

We came to the town of Oswiecim... before the war I sold textiles here.

And we came here to the concentration camp Auschwitz, and we knew that from here we will not come out anymore...

We knew the stories—that they will gas us and throw us in the ovens. This was 1944... we knew everything, and here we were.
Comprehension Check

Complete the following items after you finish your first read. Review and clarify details with your group.

1. Why does Vladek Spiegelman want to go to Hungary?

2. What does Anja Spiegelman feel about the smuggling idea?

3. Once the Spiegelmans are on the train, whom do the smugglers say they’re calling? Whom do they actually call?

4. Why does Vladek Spiegelman wear a pig mask in some of the panels of the graphic novel?

5. Notebook Confirm your understanding of the excerpt by writing a summary.

RESEARCH

Research to Clarify Choose at least one unfamiliar historical detail in the graphic novel. Briefly research that detail. In what way does the historical information shed light on the story?

Research to Explore The excerpt from the graphic novel may inspire you to learn more about the plight of European Jews under the Nazis. Formulate a research question about the subject, and briefly research it. Share your findings with your group.