



About the Author



Art Spiegelman (b. 1948) is an American author and illustrator whose Holocaust narratives—*Maus* (1986) and *Maus II* (1991)—helped to establish the graphic novel as a sophisticated literary form. *Maus* was serialized from 1980 to 1991, and it depicts Spiegelman interviewing his father about his experiences as a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor.

from *Maus*

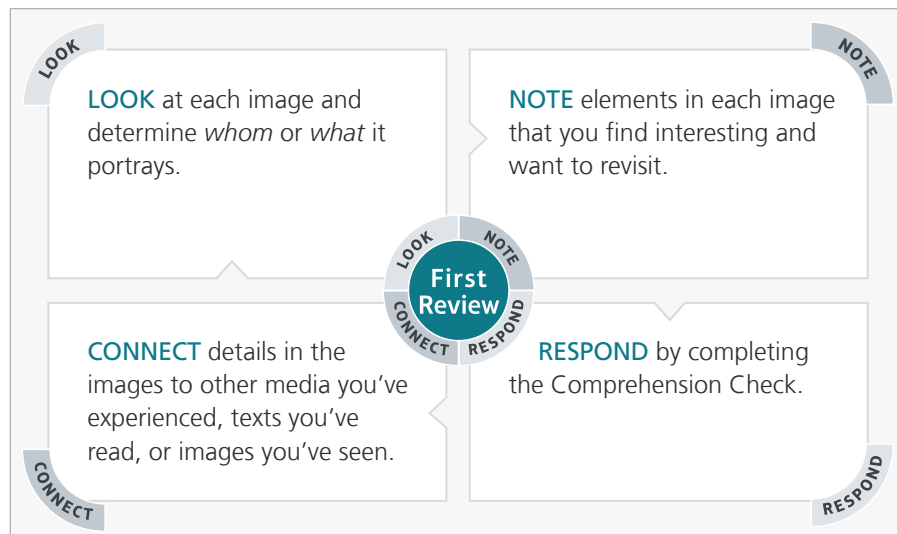
Media Vocabulary

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

panel: individual frame of a graphic novel depicting a single moment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
encapsulation: choice of which scenes to capture, or display, in panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
speech balloon: display of what a character is speaking or thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.



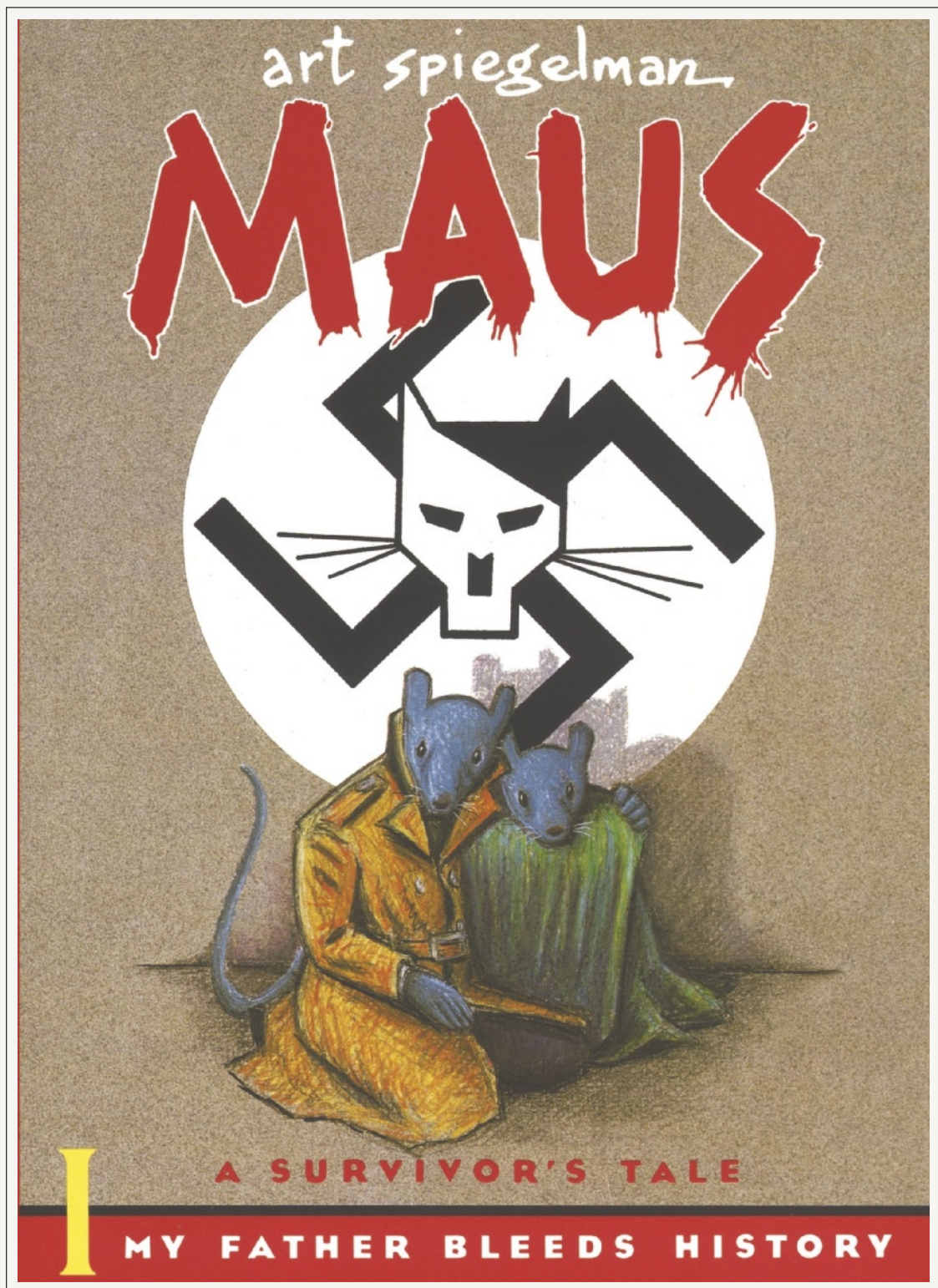
STANDARDS

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.



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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.

SCAN FOR
MULTIMEDIA



WHEN I ARRIVED TO KAWKA, THE TWO SMUGGLERS WERE THERE TOGETHER SITTING IN THE KITCHEN..



ANJA AND I BOUGHT ALWAYS PASTRIES THERE. HE USED TO BE A VERY RICH MAN IN SOSNOWIEC.

BACK WHEN IT WAS THE GHETTO, ABRAHAM WAS A BIG MEMBER OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL.



THE SMUGGLERS PROPOSED US HOW THEY WOULD DO.

WE SPOKE YIDDISH SO THE POLES DON'T UNDERSTAND.



BUT IF EVER I TALKED OF THIS PLAN TO ANJA...



9

BUT IF WE HEAR FROM ABRAHAM-



10

BUT WHAT DO WE DO IF THE GESTAPO COMES TO SEARCH FOR ILLEGAL GOODS? ... WHAT IF A NEIGHBOR NOTICES US THROUGH THE KITCHEN WINDOW? ...



11

WHAT IF HER HUSBAND FINDS OUT ABOUT US? EVEN THE BOY COULD LET SOMETHING SLIP! ...THIS WAR COULD LAST ANOTHER 4 OR 5 YEARS. WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR MONEY RUNS OUT?



12

IN HUNGARY WE COULD BE FREE TO WALK THE STREETS AGAIN, LIKE HUMAN BEINGS... I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF YOU- TRUST ME.



13

DON'T DO IT, MR. SPIEGELMAN- IT'S JUST NOT SAFE! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE SMUGGLERS.



14

WE WON'T GO UNLESS WE HEAR THAT OUR FRIEND GOT THROUGH.



15

WAIT- NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



16

MILCH HELPED ME IN SRODULA. MAYBE NOW, IF HE NEEDED, I COULD HELP HIM.



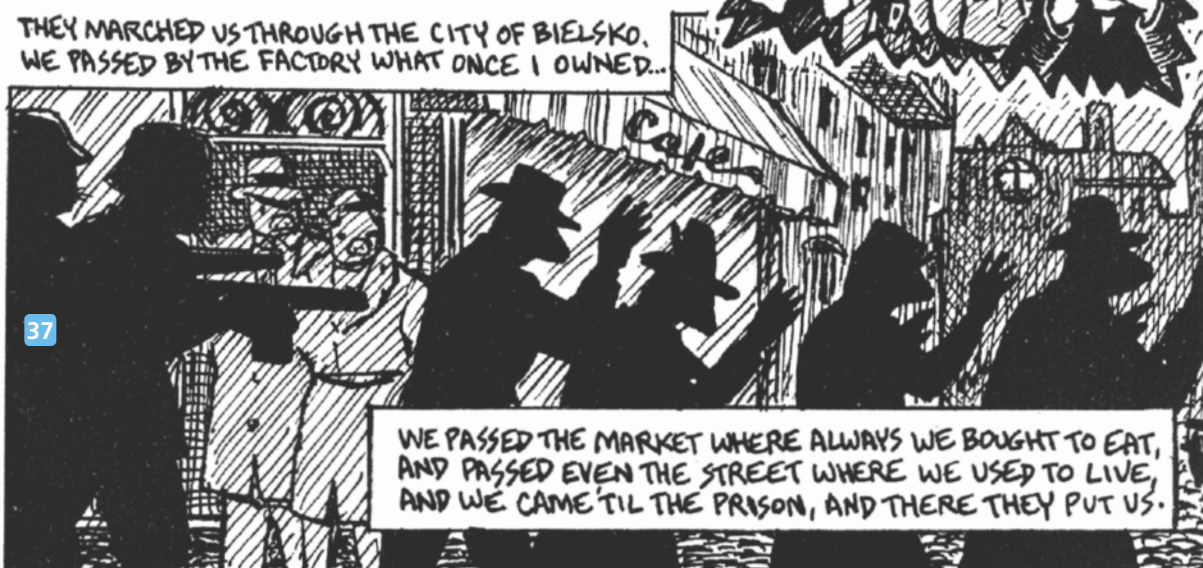
A FEW DAYS AFTER, I CAME AGAIN TO THE SMUGGLERS. AND MANDELBAUM WAS ALSO THERE.



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...





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.

IT WAS THIS WATCH I GOT FROM FATHER-IN-LAW WHEN FIRST I MARRIED TO ANJA.



WELL, NEVER MIND... THEY TOOK IT AND THREW ME WITH MANDELBAUM INTO A CELL...

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO ABRAHAM?

WHO?

AH, MANDELBAUM'S NEPHEW! YES. HE FINISHED THE SAME AS US TO CONCENTRATION CAMP.

-BUT

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.

I KNEW WELL TO WRITE GERMAN... SO I WROTE...



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.

49

ONE MORE TIME I WAS TOGETHER WITH ANJA.

HERE, DARLING. I HAVE
A PRESENT FOR YOU...

EGGS?! CAKE ???
WHAT? HOW?...

50

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.

51

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...

52

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.