

MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE BY ART SPIEGELMAN

To complete this activity, access the *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* **Work Guide** within *Gale In Context: Literature*. To find this page, search "Maus: A Survivor's Tale" in the Search bar of the homepage and choose the option in the drop down.

You will utilize this **Work Guide** before, during, and after reading this work to answer the questions below.

BEFORE YOU READ:

Use *Gale In Context: Literature* to answer the following:

1. What type of work is *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*?

2. Much of what Art Spiegelman writes is informed by an interview with a relative. Who does he get the information from?

3. What animals does Art Spiegelman use to depict Jewish characters? What about Nazis? Why do you think he chose those animals?

From Your Own Knowledge and Experiences:

1. What do you know about the Holocaust? Where do you think your knowledge is lacking?

2. Do you think real historical events can be properly portrayed in Graphic Novels? Why or why not?

3. Do you think people should continue to write stories about horrific historical events, or do you think it's better to put them to rest? Why?

4. Is information provided through informal interviews always accurate? In what ways could accuracy be off?

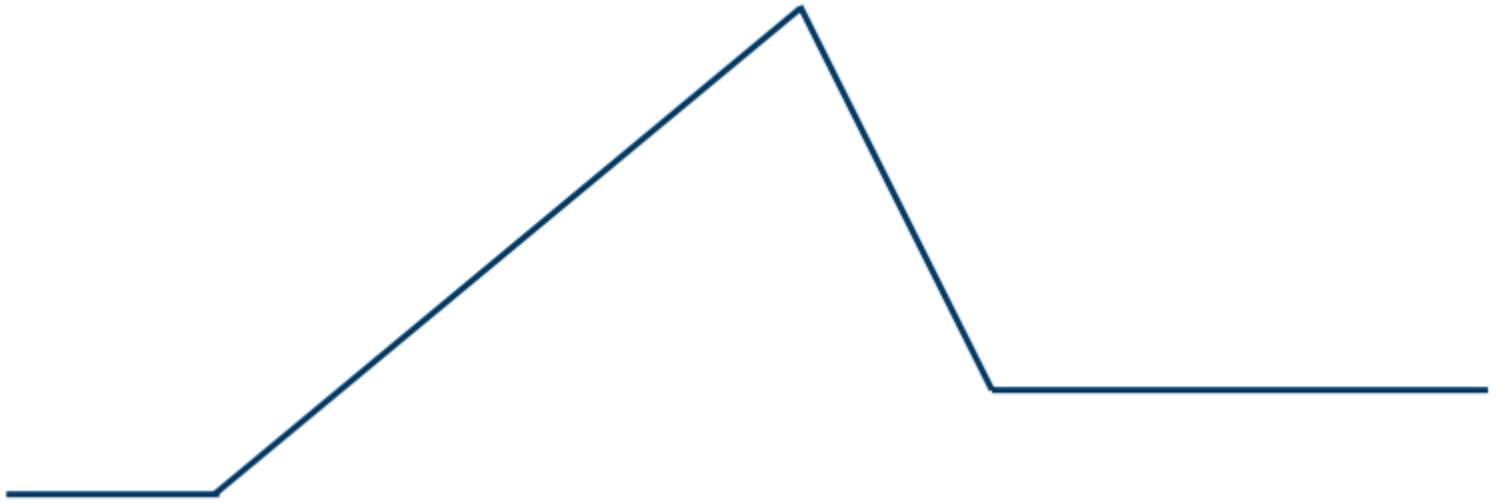
5. What issues or events do you hope *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* will cover?

AS YOU READ:

As you read *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, take notes on the characters in the novel. Include how they are related, what events they are involved in, and why they are important to the story. Consider how your opinion of them changes throughout your reading.

CHARACTER	INFORMATION
Art Spiegelman	
Vladek Spiegelman	
Anja Spiegelman	
Mala Spiegelman	
Richieu Spiegelman	
Manice	
Mandelbaum	
Françoise Mouly	
Pavel	

Complete the plot diagram below, filling in events for each element of the story including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.



The following are the themes depicted in *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. As you read, take notes (including page numbers) of how you see these themes portrayed in the book.

THEME	HOW IT'S PORTRAYED
Survival	
Family Relationships	
Suffering	
Creative Process	

AFTER READING:

1. What did you find most impactful about the graphic novel format in *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*? How did it enhance your understanding or emotional connection to the story?

2. How does the use of animal characters, with different species representing different ethnic groups, contribute to the overall message and themes of the book?

3. How does Art Spiegelman's decision to portray himself as a character within the story affect your reading experience? Did it make the narrative more relatable or complex?

4. Discuss the significance of the title, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. What does it imply about the story and its underlying themes?

5. Analyze the relationship between Vladek and Art. How does their dynamic evolve throughout the book, and what does it reveal about the intergenerational impact of trauma?

6. Explore the use of visual metaphors and symbolism in *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. How do they contribute to the storytelling and the portrayal of characters' experiences?

7. Reflect on the portrayal of the Holocaust in *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. How does it differ from other works you've encountered on the same topic? What unique perspectives or insights does it offer?

8. Discuss the role of memory and storytelling in the work. How does Vladek's retelling of his experiences shape our understanding of history, and how reliable do you think his recollections are?

9. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* has been recognized as an important work in the genre of Holocaust literature. Why do you think it continues to resonate with readers today?

10. If you were able to sit down and interview one character, who would it be and why? What is one question you would ask them?
