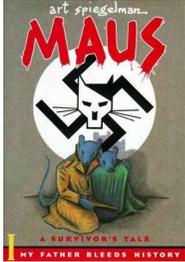


# Books by the Stack



## *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman

A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.

**Why you'll like it:** World War II. Holocaust. Masterful Story-telling. Animal Personification.

**About the Author:** Art Spiegelman is often credited with making comics and graphic novels a part of modern literature and not just something sold at toy stores. He began drawing professionally at age 16 and worked through the 1960s and 1970s in the underground comix subculture of New York City. Art has played himself in an episode of "The Simpsons."

### Questions for Discussion

1. This is a graphic memoir. A graphic memoir tells a person's life through text and drawings. Why does Art Spiegelman use mice instead of people to portray the characters in the story? What do the mice represent?
2. Why does Vladek ask Art not to write about Lucia in his book? Why doesn't Art listen to his father? Do you think it is right for Art to break his promise?
3. On page 31, Vladek says that he left Anja and their new baby to go to Bielsko to run his new factory and find an apartment for them to live in. How does Anja respond? Have you or members of your family ever had to separate in order to start a new job or new life? How did it feel for the people who moved on? How did it feel for the people who were left behind?
4. Why does Vladek throw away Art's coat? What would you have done if you were Art?
5. On page 80, Vladek says, "Will I walk slowly, they will take me... Will I run they can shoot me!" What does he mean? Who is he talking about? Do you think his feelings are justified? Explain.
6. Why does Anja's nephew Luke refuse to go to the hidden bunker? Does he make a smart decision? Why or why not?
7. Vladek questions why he ever remarried after Anja's death. Why do you think he married Mala? Do you think Vladek and Mala have a good marriage? Explain.
8. What do you think happened to Abraham? Why do you think he sent a letter from Hungary in Yiddish telling Vladek and Mandelbaum that everything was okay and that they should come to Hungary?
9. Maus portrays the Holocaust or a genocide. A genocide is a deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group. Do you know of any recent genocides? How are these genocides similar

to the Holocaust? How are they different?

**10.** What happens to people who live under a terror regime for a long period of time? Should people adapt to a terror regime? Explain.

*(Questions issued by LaGuardia Community College)*

