

# MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE WORKSHEET

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_

## **Prologue (pgs. 5-7)**

1. What is your first impression of Vladek Spiegelman?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does his remark about **friends** suggest about his personality?

## **Chapter 1 “The Sheik” (pgs. 11-23)**

3. How does Vladek respond when Artie first asks him about his life in Poland?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why might he not want to talk about those years?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. On page 12, we see a close-up of Vladek as he pedals his exercise bicycle. What is the meaning of the numbers tattooed on his wrist?

## **Chapter 2 “The Honeymoon” (pgs. 26-40)**

6. What does Vladek see while traveling through Czechoslovakia?

7. Why is there a swastika in the background of the panels on page 33?

8. What other symbols do you see so far in this book?

### **Chapter 3 “Prisoner of War” (pgs. 43-69)**

9. When Artie would not finish his food as a child, what did Vladek do?

10. Do we take things for granted today?

11. What is the meaning of the beard and skullcap that Vladek’s father is shown wearing on page 46?

12. How did the Nazis treat Vladek and other Jewish prisoners after taking them to the Reich?

13. How was this different from their treatment of Polish prisoners?

14. What is important about Vladek’s dream about his grandfather?

15. How does Vladek arrange to be reunited with his wife and son?

16. What does Spiegelman use to show him disguising himself as a Polish Gentile?

#### **Chapter 4 “The Noose Tightens” (pgs. 73-93)**

17. Although Jews were allowed only limited rations under the Nazi control, Vladek manages to get around these restrictions for a while. What does he do to support himself and his family?

18. On page 80, why is Vladek drawn in the middle of a Star of David?

19. What happened to little Richieu?

20. What feelings about little Richieu are expressed by Vladek?

21. Look on page 87, would you do this? Is it okay to save yourself?

22. Look on pages 90-91, what happened to Vladek’s father? What do these pages show about the ways in which some Jews died and others survived?

23. Why is Vladek “more attached to things that people?”

### **Chapter 5 “Mouse Holes” (pgs. 96-127)**

24. As the book goes on, Spiegelman’s mice seem to become more “mouse-like.” What makes the characters more “mouse-like”? Why would Spiegelman want them to be more like mice?

25. Why does Artie become an artist?

26. How does the comic strip “Prisoner on the Hell Planet” show Artie and his family?

27. Why do you think Artie is drawn in a prison uniform?

28. What is the effect of seeing these mice suddenly shown as human beings?

29. Describe how Vladek hid Anja and himself during the liquidation of the ghetto.

30. How did the Germans find them?

31. What eventually happens to the mouse who informed on the Spiegelmans?

32. What happens to Haskel, who refused to save Vladek's in-laws even though he took their jewels?

33. Look at pages 118-119, describe the relations between Jews and Germans?

34. It is clear that some Nazis were friendly with their victims. Is it worse to kill a stranger or a friend?

### **Chapter 6 "Mouse Trap" (pgs. 130-159)**

35. What does the chapter title say about what is going to happen?

36. On page 136, Vladek says that he could pass as a member of the Gestapo but Anja looked more Jewish. How does Spiegelman show the difference between them?

37. On page 147, Vladek and Anja's hiding place turns out to be infested with rats. Why would this fact be important to the story?

38. On page 149, Vladek is almost betrayed by a group of schoolchildren. What stories did Poles tell their children about Jews?

39. How do you think these stories helped to make the Final Solution possible?

40. On page 157, the Nazis put a sign over the entrance to Auschwitz that says, "Work Makes You Free." What do you think the Nazis meant by this?

41. Why does Artie call his father a "murderer?"