



Maus

Marian DeMark

Artie Spiegelman

- American cartoonists, editor, and comic advocate
- Son of Vladek and Anja Spielgeman
 - Jews
- Wrote his fathers story about being a survivor of the Holocaust and WWII, up to the present moment in the comic book Maus
 - Characters were depicted as animals



Classification

- The first stage of genocide
 - “Us versus them”
 - Nazi Party began to persecute the Jews in Europe
- Laws were put in place such as the Nuremberg Laws
 - Jews were stripped of their jobs, homes, etc.
- Sent to ghettos
 - Vladek managed to save his rations such as bread, cigarettes, and chocolate, which he was able to trade for more beneficial goods



Aftermath

- Vladek and Anja's lives were not the same after they were liberated
 - They had severe PTSD, so bad that Anja committed suicide
- Vladek was temperamental, frustrated, and angry all the time
 - His relationship with his son and second wife was meaningless
- Every person who entered the camps, or ghettos came in as themselves, and once they were freed, they came back as strangers



My Point of View

- I think Maus degrades the Holocaust
 - It was a human catastrophe that killed millions of Jews and other people
 - Jews were forced into cramped ghettos, being forced to work, getting diseases, and dying from starvation
- A comic book is supposed to be funny
 - The Holocaust was not
- He probably should have written about the Holocaust and the aftermath
 - He lived with Holocaust survivors
- Maybe could have written about his parents PTSD, how they were affected, how their lives were changed, and how they coped with their traumas

His Point of View

- In a way I can probably tell why he wanted to make his story into a comedy
- Probably did not want readers to think about the horrific events that took place during the Holocaust
- Maybe he wanted to create a comedic story depicting animal characters, and symbolize and center it around a traumatic event that took place in the 1900's
- Maybe as an analogy
 - He was probably making a comparison between the storyline of Maus with the actual events, along with the purpose, explanation, and clarification of the Holocaust

Conclusion

- There are a lot of similarities throughout the comic book, Maus
- Vladek's life was very rough, including Anja and Artie
 - He was able to retell his life during the Holocaust and WWII even though everything he went through was traumatic
- “Classification” and “Dehumanization,” two of the stages of genocide were used very well in this comic
- Artie is able to portray Jews being progressively stripped of their rights, made slave laborers, seen as the inferior race, and made to be seen as evil and greedy