Book Summary

The comic book, Maus, was written by Art Spiegelman and was told through his perspective. Art illustrates an interview with his father who is a Holocaust survivor. Vladek Spiegelman was a Polish Jew who saw the genocide from multiple views.
Conditions of Genocide Protrayed in Maus
Persecution

- **Beginning stages**
- **Included:**
  - Separation of races
  - Racist laws
    - Jewish curfews
    - Limited food
    - No more Jewish owned businesses
  - Discrimination
    - Forced to sing prayers while being laughed at and beaten
    - Cut off beards

(Spiegelman 75)
P.O.W / Forced Labor Camps

- Forced to clean stables
- Separated Polish prisoners and Jewish prisoners
- Took Jewish prisoners, officially released them as P.O.W. but didn’t take them home
- Led them to mass shootings in the forest
- Start to see the organization and planning of the Germans
Relocation and Ghettos

- Jews were forced to move to smaller communities
- Multiple times
  - Each time worse than the last
- Nazis took a majority of the population to Auschwitz with each relocation
Elaborate Hiding Places

- Out of fear, many Jews took their families and went into hiding.
- The ghettos were small so they had to get creative:
  - Tunnels within piles of shoes
  - Bunkers behind false walls
  - Garbage
Was Maus Demeaning the Holocaust Experience?
No

- Maus brings honor and humanity to the survivors
- Each has a story and a different perspective
- The comic book style reached a wider audience
  - “People who don’t usually read such stories will be interested,” (Spiegelman 133).