Maus I: My Father Bleeds History
Test
Multiple Choice

1. At the P.O.W. camp, Vladek stands out from the other prisoners in that he
   A. continues to pray, when others have forsaken religion.
   B. exercises even when hungry and bathes even when cold.
   C. turns his back on God and prayer, while others become more devout.
   D. reports fellow Jews who are lax in their work.

2. Vladek was especially strict about and adamant that the young Artie should
   A. always faithfully observe the Saturday of Parshas Truma.
   B. always find ways to capitalize on his schoolmates’ weak points.
   C. always be the first to volunteer when a new opportunity was presented.
   D. always eat everything on his plate.

3. After killing Jan, a German soldier who was trying to surrender, Vladek is
   A. wracked with guilt and tortured by nightmares.
   B. satisfied that at least he contributed something to the war effort.
   C. electrified and moved by a deep desire to spill more German blood.
   D. depressed with the knowledge that the war will claim so many more
      innocent lives.

4. Anja first begins to voice her suicidal feelings
   A. just after Richieu’s birth.
   B. just after Vladek is drafted.
   C. just after the Zylberbergs’ factory is robbed.
   D. just after receiving Lucia’s letter.

5. As a P.O.W., Vladek admires the Germans’ gift for
   A. choosing their commanders well.
   B. recycling old things rather than buying new ones.
   C. doing everything in an organized and systematic manner.
   D. persuading the gentile Poles to expose and betray the Jewish ones.

6. When Vladek returns from the P.O.W. camp, he finds that Jewish businesses have
   A. all gone bankrupt.
   B. all been taken over by Aryan management.
   C. all been burned to the ground.
   D. all been looted by rioting Germans.

7. The fact that Vladek has chocolate to give to Orbach’s daughters is a good
   example of his
   A. tendency to always put others’ comfort before his own.
   B. facility at bribing German guards for rare goods.
   C. commitment to remaining lean and physically fit by avoiding sweets.
D. commitment to always saving something for the future, “just in case.”

8. To visually echo the tension Miss Stefanska feels in prison, Spiegelman sets the panel that depicts her in jail
   A. on a slant.
   B. upside-down.
   C. at the end of a hall of mirrors.
   D. in a shadow so dark that her shape can barely be discerned.

9. In *Prisoner on the Hell Planet* the “prisoner” of the title refers to
   A. Artie.
   B. Anja.
   C. Vladek.
   D. Mala.

10. At one point, Vladek gives up most of his off-the-record business in order to work, for almost no money, at a carpentry shop in order to
    A. be closer to Lolek and Anja’s father, who also work there.
    B. learn carpentry skills that might be useful later.
    C. secure the official work paper he needs for protection.
    D. smuggle wood and nails with which to build bunkers out of the shop.

11. Artie is surprised to find out that Vladek read *Prisoner on the Hell Planet* because
    A. it is written in English, and while Vladek speaks the language passably, he cannot read it.
    B. Vladek never reads comics.
    C. Vladek has shown no interest in Artie’s feelings about Anja’s death.
    D. Vladek hates to be reminded of Anja and never thinks of her anymore.

12. While Anja refused to let Ilzecki take Richieu into hiding, she lets Persis do so because
    A. Persis is Wolfe’s uncle, so Richieu will be kept with family, whatever happens.
    B. she trusts Persis and had doubts about Ilzecki’s motives.
    C. Persis is wealthy and can provide better care for Richieu than Ilzecki could have.
    D. the situation has gotten so bad that she finally feels she has no choice but to let Richieu be taken from her into hiding.

13. Richieu is ultimately killed
    A. by a German soldier who swings Richieu by his feet, bashing the boy’s head against a wall.
    B. in the ovens at Auschwitz.
    C. in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.
    D. by the Jewish woman who is hiding him from the Nazis.
14. Haskel Spiegelman charges his first cousin, Vladek, for assistance in slipping past the Nazis. Vladek explains that this was because
A. during the Holocaust, it was “every man for himself,” and family ties no longer meant much.
B. Haskel had always envied Vladek for Vladek’s entrepreneurial success and chose this opportunity to lord his status over Vladek.
C. Haskel was a non-religious Jew and, therefore—according to Vladek—had no morals.
D. Vladek had refused to hire Haskel on at his textiles factory before the Nazis rose to power.

15. A “kombinator” is
A. a member of a family with “combined” Jewish and Gentile bloodlines.
B. a Jew who informs on other Jews for the Nazis.
C. a schemer or crook.
D. a kind of bunker involving both wooden and brick false walls.

16. Lolek decides not to hide in the bunker behind the tunnel of shoes because
A. he is a skilled worker and has just been hired by the Germans to work at Auschwitz.
B. he is sick of having to hide all the time.
C. he has a premonition that the tunnel will not hold.
D. he has a premonition that the war will end soon.

17. A narrative in which a character or narrator calls attention to the making of the narrative itself is called a
A. metafiction.
B. oxymoron.
C. syllepsis.
D. Mobius strip.

18. While Spiegelman shows both Anja and Vladek wearing “Pole”—or pig—masks as they sneak towards Sosnowiec, he represents Anja’s greater difficulty in concealing her Jewish features by
A. drawing her mask slipping halfway off her face.
B. drawing a mouse tail that trails out from beneath her coat.
C. drawing a target on her back.
D. drawing Vladek in shadow and putting a “spotlight” on Anja.

19. As an immediate result of his daring to answer a stranger on the street in Hebrew, Vladek
A. learns what has become of his son, Richieu.
B. finds out where Janina, Richieu’s former governess, is living.
C. finds out that Sosnowiec has become a safe haven for Jews.
D. learns the location of a black market where he can purchase food.
20. Artie calls Vladek a “murderer” upon learning that Vladek
A. burned Anja’s diaries.
B. encouraged Anja to kill herself rather than suffer.
C. ultimately buried the Jew who exposed Vladek’s hiding place.
D. watched others die on the truck to Auschwitz rather than share his food.

**Essay**

Choose one.

1. Using specific examples from the text, compare the artistic and narrative styles of the bulk of *Maus* with those of *Prisoner on the Hell Planet*. How does the form of each reflect its content?

2. Choose the three adjectives that you think best describe Vladek’s character and defend your choices with specific examples from *Maus*. Avoid surface-level observations like “cheap” and, instead, go deeper, demonstrating your knowledge of the motives that make Vladek the way he is.

3. As a librarian faced with the challenge of finding an appropriate location for *Maus*, would you shelve it with histories, comic books, biographies, fiction, or in some other pre-existing section? Defend your choice with specific examples from the book.

4. Compare and contrast Artie and Vlakek. Make sure to show their treatment of each other, their views of their respective pasts, and their personalities.