

## Maus in the Social Studies Curriculum

Understand world cultures and civilizations, including an analysis of important ideas, social and cultural values, beliefs, and traditions. Examine the human condition and the connections and interactions of people across time and space, and the ways different people view the same event or issue from a variety of perspectives. (New York Learning Standards for Social Studies—High School)

- Maus introduces readers to the culture of 1930's Poland. It establishes the cultural and social values, beliefs, and traditions of prewar Poland as it follows Vladek Spiegelman, a young and successful businessman.
- By establishing life before the war it distinguishes the social changes that took place during the war.
- Maus provides the perspective of a Polish Jew during World War 2 which can be used for analysis along side other works dealing with WW2.

Establish timeframes, explore different periodizations, examine themes across time and within cultures, and focus on important turning points in world history help organize the study of world cultures and civilizations. (New York Learning Standards for Social Studies—High School)

- Maus distinguishes between the past and the present by creating a multiple-tier timeline. The story shifts between the present (the time the story was written) and the past, as it is being told to Art Spiegleman by his father, Vladek Spiegelman.
- The story explores how critical moments in history affected those living in that time and place, and how it changed the course of their lives.
- Maus explores the cycle of dominance as it is passed down from the Germans to the Jews, to Vladek, who rules over his family, to cats ruling over mice.
- The story is told by Vladek, a survivor, to Art, his son. Vladek explains to Art the mindset of the Jews just as the war was starting, as well as the mindset during the war in hiding, and in Auschwitz.

Study of the major social, political, cultural, and religious developments in world history involves learning about the important roles and contributions of individuals and groups. (New York Learning Standards for Social Studies—High School)

- Vladek relates stories of the people who both helped to save his life, and stories of the people who betrayed them demonstrating the important roles and contributions of individuals through out the war.

Investigate differing and competing interpretations of the theories of history, hypothesize about why interpretations change over time, explain the importance of historical evidence, and understand the concepts of change and continuity over time. (New York Learning Standards for Social Studies—High School)