

**Instructional Materials Committee
CURRICULUM ADOPTION REQUEST**

Text/Resource Requester: Jaclyn Stewart

Text/Resource Title: MAUS (MAUS - A Survivor's Tale 1: My Father Bleeds History)

Author: Art Spiegelman

Publisher: Pantheon Books **Copyright Date:** 1992 Random House Inc **This text is:** NEW

Replacing (Title): N/A (No previous texts approved for this course)

Intended Use: Graphic Novel Unit

School: WHS

Department: ELA

Grade: 12

Subject: English

Number of Copies Needed: 32 (Class Set)

Unit Price: approximately \$5/each on Amazon (Used)

This text is intended for use beginning (sy): Semester 2 (February 2023)

Approval dates

Principal or Dept. Head (name): *WAB*

Date: 3/20/2023

Instructional Material Committee: *WJ*

Date: 3/20/2023

Board of Directors Approval:

Date:

Evaluation

Reading Level (CCSS Qualitative and Quantitative Measures): 900+L: Grades 9-12: Graphic Novel

MAUS is a 159-page nonfiction graphic novel about a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust and his son's quest to tell his father's story through comics. Although the novel averages about 970 in terms of Lexile, there are many foreign names, grammar structures, and references that make it a challenging book for even 12th grade students.

MAUS was the first graphic novel to win the Pulitzer Prize, which makes it an important and required reading within the graphic novel canon. It is known for its varied and unique approach to the Holocaust not only because of its expert graphic novel composition and vast array of survivor experiences, but also because each race is represented by a different animal (i.e. Jews are mice, Nazis are cats). This increases student

engagement and inspires great class discussions on author's perspective and purpose.

1. What process did you use to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of this text/resource?

- Close read entire novel
- Checked for reading and engagement levels
- Checked for relevant connection to course description
- Analyzed for classic graphic novel elements
- Checked for appropriateness: some foul language (fits historical context)
- Analyzed author's craft and class analysis/discussion potential

2. What other materials did you consider?

- The Faithful Spy
- The War within These Walls
- A Family Secret

3. In what ways is this material better than the other materials? (Text format, organization content, unbiased content concerning minorities and women, teacher's guide, workbooks, etc.)

- Winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize
- Well-Known Minority Author and Inspiring Minority Characters
- Unique Graphic Novel Perspective into the Holocaust - animals are used to represent races
- Contains a Variety of Holocaust Experiences: pre-war, soldier, prisoner of war, labor camp, concentration camp, in hiding

4. How does this material fit the students' learning objectives for the subject area?

- Students will
 - Analyze classic graphic novel techniques: composition, design, dialogue, etc.
 - Analyze the use of author's craft in visual texts
 - Apply graphic novel and author's craft techniques in their own writing

5. How does this material ensure continuity with the District's overall program?

Meets 11-12 ELA Standards and Curriculum Mapping (in progress)

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3
- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.5
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.11-12.3
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

6. Will this material be the basic text or will it supplement the basic text?

- It will be one of the three basic texts for the graphic novel unit.

Please check the appropriate box for Bias Content evaluation:

Bias Content	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Presents more than one view point of controversial issues.	X				
Presents minorities realistically.	X				
Includes contributions of minority authors.	X				
Presents non-stereotypic models.	X				
Facilitates the sharing of cultural differences.	X				
Promotes the positive nature of differences.	X				
Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of minorities.	X				
Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of women.					X
Presents minorities in a manner that promotes ethnic pride.	X				
Facilitates an environment open to discovery and experimentation.	X				