Maus I Study Guide
Chapter Three: Prisoners of War

Vocabulary
Wehrmacht
Gestapo
annexed
reich
protectorate

1. What childhood offense of Artie’s was Vladek particularly strict about?

2. Why does Vladek continue to shoot at a soldier who holds up a hand in surrender?

3. Briefly characterize Vladek’s response to the knowledge that he has killed Jan, a German soldier.

4. What do the Nazis see as proof that Vladek has never had to work hard in his life? What is unusual about one frame on page 53 that interrupts the story? What is this technique called?

5. In what way does Vladek immediately stand out as more practical and self-motivated than his fellow prisoners?

6. What significance does “Parshas Truma” have to Vladek?

7. What does Vladek think about the way the Germans clear the POWs out of camp?
8. How does Spiegelman visually describe the Germans’ attitude towards killing Jews on page 63?

9. What concretely brings home to Vladek the idea that he could die?

10. How does Vladek come to have chocolate to give to Orbach’s daughters? What does his possession of the chocolate say about his character?

11. How does Spiegelman visually portray Vladek’s attempt to pass for a Pole on the train?

12. What does the incident involving Vladek’s father’s beard reveal about the German soldiers?

13. What does Artie mean when he says that he has to get home by “curfew”? What does this statement tell us about Artie?

14. What incident at the end of the chapter speaks of the generation (in addition to personality) gap between Vladek and Artie? What habit of Artie’s is Vladek unable to understand?