

# Unit 04: Maus

Content Area: **Language Arts**  
Course(s): **English 1A**  
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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Please see list of standards for more details under the anchor standards. Please note that additional standards can be applied to any unit.

ELA.L	Language
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.A	Use parallel structure.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.C	Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.D	Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.E	Recognize spelling conventions.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.A	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.B	Vary word choice and sentence structure to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of language.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.C	Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.D	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.E	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings, including connotative meanings.

ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone; how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
ELA.R	Reading
ELA.RI.CR.9–10.1	Cite a range and thorough textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections, to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly and inferentially, as well as interpretations of the text.
ELA.RI.CI.9–10.2	Determine one or more central ideas of an informational text and analyze how it is developed and refined over the course of a text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
ELA.RI.IT.9–10.3	Analyze how an author unfolds ideas throughout the text, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.
ELA.RL.TS.9–10.4	Analyze how an author’s choices concerning the structure of a text, order of the events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulation of time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).
ELA.RI.TS.9–10.4	Analyze in detail the author’s choices concerning the structure of ideas or claims of a text, and how they are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
ELA.RI.AA.9–10.7	Describe and evaluate the argument and specific claims in an informational text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and reasoning.
ELA.RI.CT.9–10.8	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) seminal and informational text of historical and scientific significance, including how they relate in terms of themes and significant concepts.
ELA.W	Writing
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient textual and non-textual evidence.
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.A	Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.B	Develop claim(s) and counterclaims using sound reasoning, supplying data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns.
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.C	Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
ELA.W.AW.9–10.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes) to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.A	Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important

	connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aid in comprehension.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.B	Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.C	Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
ELA.W.IW.9–10.2.F	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
ELA.W.WR.9–10.5	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
ELA.W.SE.9–10.6	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
ELA.W.RW.9–10.7	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
ELA.SL	Speaking and Listening
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.B	Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g., student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
ELA.SL.II.9–10.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
ELA.SL.ES.9–10.3	Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any false reasoning or distorted evidence.
ELA.SL.PI.9–10.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

ELA.SL.UM.9–10.5	Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.
ELA.SL.AS.9–10.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.1	Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.4	Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.
TECH.8.1.12.D.1	Demonstrate appropriate application of copyright, fair use and/or Creative Commons to an original work.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS1	Plan strategies to guide inquiry.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS3	Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.

## **Enduring Understandings**

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Students will understand the following:

By not speaking out or acting out against injustice, the bystander is as dangerous as the perpetrator.

The genre of the graphic novel utilizes visual techniques and images to convey the author's deeper meaning of the text.

History is cyclical and we must study our past mistakes in an effort to teach our future generations.

The atrocities of genocide are not only conveyed in text but are also revealed through the voices of witnesses and primary accounts.

## **Additional Resources**

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**Core Text:** *Maus* - Art Spiegelman

**Core Poem:** "The Hangman" - Maurice Ogden

### **Poetry**

"In the Middle of Life" - Tadeusz Rozewicz (translation Czeslaw Milosz)

"Night Over Birkenau" - Tadeusz Borowski

"Could Have" - Wislawa Szymborska

"The Portrait" - Stanley Kunitz

"Death Fugue" - Paul Celan

### **Non-Fiction**

excerpts from *MetaMaus*

"The Perils of Indifference" - Elie Weisel

Background on the Holocaust

"Hitler Killed My Father" - Shirley Levy (*Newsweek*)

### **Essential Questions**

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How may silence perpetuate violence?

How do graphic novels allow for a more effective use of symbolism?

How does knowledge of the past enable people to make better decisions about the future?

What is the importance of memory and remembrance in relation to genocide?

### **Knowledge and Skills**

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Students will identify some of the major events of the Holocaust as told by Art and Vladek Spiegelman.

Students will supply the meanings of unfamiliar words used in the book.

Students will identify themes and issues presented in the book.

Students will identify character traits of the major characters.

Students will analyze the use of animals as symbols.

Students will analyze the use of graphics in the book and their relationship to the text and the story.

Students will use quotes from the text to stimulate discussion and support statements.

### **Transfer Goals**

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Students will independently be able to analyze how important symbols reinforce underlying themes and apply

that knowledge to the future study of graphic novels.

Students will independently be able to recognize visual rhetoric such as political cartoons, graphic novels, and propaganda in order to be aware of its ability to persuade and manipulate individuals.

### **Assessment**

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[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_w12qVbVV7OTThc9VW43HSpZm3Czh9kegRwYqjMm7fQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_w12qVbVV7OTThc9VW43HSpZm3Czh9kegRwYqjMm7fQ/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Modifications**

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17jJtNi1cFhRgM3667P67m3pGkj1sD-XarWejIWAANIg/edit?usp=sharing>