

Maus in the English Literature Curriculum

Read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.

(National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards for the English Language Arts—High School)

- Maus uses pictures and text to juxtapose contemporary life in the U.S with life in World War 2 era Europe.

Read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.

(National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards for the English Language Arts—High School)

- Maus is a non-fiction graphic novel which deals with the philosophical, ethical, and aesthetic issues surrounding the Holocaust as told by a Holocaust survivor.

Develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.

(National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards for the English Language Arts—High School)

- Maus uses different dialects, and foreign languages to depict different characters ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Web Resources to support Maus in an English Literature Curriculum:

Thomas, Gordon P. *Graphic Autobiography: Using Maus in a Composition Class*.

<http://www.class.uidaho.edu/thomas/Holocaust/thomas/maus.html>

Bucks County Free Library: *Teaching Resources for Spiegleman's Maus: A Survivor's Tale*.

<http://www.buckslib.org/OneBook/Maus/aboutonebook.htm>

Chicago Humanities Festival Maus Study Guide

<http://www.chfestival.org/resources/content/comicbooklessonplan.pdf>