

Shyanne Robinson
Mr. Salow
English 11
16 May 2017

Five Frame Analysis

On page 33 of Maus Part one by Art Spiegelman is where I chose to analyze five consecutive frames of the graphic novel.

In the first frame Vladek, Anja, and three other people are in a train car talking about the things they have heard and seen. One of the jews in the car talk about “ a pogrom going on in Germany today.” The art on the page reflected the worry that comes with the topic. The jew is holding his worried covered face as all the other people in the car gather around him to hear. The ink is light in the middle with the sides darkening as if foreshadowing what they are all about to hear from this jew in the train car.

The next frame depicts the story. Two Nazis, depicted as cats, are outside of a storefront with “jude” painted on the window. The jew that owned the store “had to sell his business to a German..” The frame is mostly black with a swastika in the background. This could show the extreme fear that the man and other people are feeling as this story is being told.

In the third frame two jews are in a wagon holding a sign that says “I am a filthy jew.” The same black background and swastika can be seen in the background. The jews in this frame, however; have blank faces. This could represent how the Nazis don’t see them as people, but as objects. The two jews also look to be very poor and sick; this shows how mistreated they were by the German officers and residents.

The fourth frame shows a Nazi officer holding a bat above a Jew that looks grief-stricken. The man in the train car tells Vladek that “the police came to his house and no one heard from him again.” The black background is still prevalent in this frame. This was the “pogrom” that the Jew from the train was talking about. Jews were selected on the street and beaten until the officers were satisfied.

The fifth and final frame is the entrance to the town where the story takes place. The entrance has a sign that reads, “This town is Jew free.” Vladek explains that this was “the first time I saw, with my own eyes, the swastika.” The dark theme continues throughout the five frames. This signals the darkness that surrounds the topic of the story that is being told to Vladek and Anja. The man on the train explained that “the whole town is pushing out all Jews,” and that “each story [is] worse than the other.”