Maus II – Or Here my Troubles Began

Study Guide – Part One

**Short Answer**

1. Why has Art made a series of visits to his childhood home in Rego Park, N.Y.?

2. What happened to Anja, Art's mother, and why is Art furious with Vladek, his father, over Anja's wartime memoirs?

3. As the story begins, Art is having a hard time deciding how to draw Francoise, his wife. What is the problem he is having over it?

4. Why does Vladek leave a message to Art that he has had a heart attack?

5. Why does Art have a sibling rivalry with a snapshot of his brother Richieu, who died in the holocaust?

6. Art and Francoise plan to spend the weekend with Vladek in the Catskills; however, Vladek plans for a longer stay. How much longer does he want them there?

7. Who is Mala, and what is Vladek's explanation for her leaving?

8. Give some examples of Vladek's stinginess?

9. Before the concentration camp Auschwitz was built, the town was called Oswiecim, what was the reason for Vladek having often gone there?

10. What is the first things that the guards confiscate from the prisoners upon their arrival in Auschwitz?

11. Did the prisoners know or suspect that other prisoners were being gassed to death in showers.

12. How did Mandelbaum end up in Hungary, and what happened to the people that enticed him there?

13. What does the priest tell Vladek about the number 175113 tattooed on his arm?

14. Beside the fact that he was in Auschwitz, what were Mandelbaum's problems?

15. What is a Kapo, and what animal is used to represent them?

16. What talent does Vladek have that proves to be the thing that keeps him alive?

17. What does Mandelbaum mean when he cries, "It's a miracle, Vladek. God sent shoes through you!"

18. What could the guards do that might ear them a few day vacation and a note of congratulations?

19. When Vladek can no longer be hidden in the "Quarantine Block," what does he claim as a skill in order to receive better treatment as a skilled worker?

20. Why does Vladek like to sneak into the Pines hotel, and what are some of the problems associated with him doing that?