[Message #2  11:41:37 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Jeianne Victoria:

1. In the beginning of this set panel, Richiev was born, Artie's older brother that he has never met before because he never made it out of the war. Then it goes to Vladek moving to Bielsko for the factory business, however when he got there he had to leave because he got a phone call saying Anja was sick and he had to return back home. Anja was depressed and Vladek took her to a sanitarium inside Czechoslovakia. On our way to the sanitarium, they passed through areas where there would be Nazi flags hanging. Jews on the train were frightened. However, when they arrived at the sanitarium, it had helped Anja's depression. By the time it was time for them to leave, Anja was all better and they headed back home.

2. Anja and Vladek are featured. Their relationship together is really close.

3. Insights:

   - Vladek started a business and his first son was born "BY OCTOBER 1937, THE FACTORY WAS GOING, AND IT WAS BORN MY FIRST SON, RICHIEV" (30).


4. the text where it says, "I AM A FLITH JEW" and "THIS TOWN IS JEW FREE" (33) is important because it shows some of the stuff that the Jews had to go through and what the Nazi's did to them.

6. some gestures are that the Jews on the train were scared.

[Message #3  11:41:55 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Kira Ostapenko:

This section is leading into how Anja was institutionalized for depression basically after giving birth, which must have been a strain on her, and Vladek went with her for support. This showed that Anja's suicidal thoughts (page 31) began before the holocaust happened and Vladek must really care for her if he would put his business on hold and go with her to Poland to help her. In the evenings, they went dancing or to the theater or café and he would tell her stories to keep her mind off of bad thoughts and worrying. It also revealed that anti-Semitism had begun in towns and Jews were completely driven out. We also learn that Archie had an older brother that didn't survive the war and he (Archie) wasn't born
until after the war. Page 30 on the bottom also shows that Vladek is really impatient and blames other people, like he blamed Archie for spilling the pills even though it wasn't Archie's fault. He is also really particular about things like counting the pills a certain way, which is why he didn't let Archie help him count them out again because he didn't know the "right" way of doing so.

[Message #4  11:42:48 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

karen wong:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

The panels are on the family, both in the past and the present. Richieu was born in 1937, and Artie after the war; both were premature. The set of panels is primarily about the beginning of their marriage, when Vladek is trying to establish his factory that was funded by his father-in-law, but then he takes time off to go with Anja to a sanitarium since she is mentally unstable, following the arrest of her neighbor who covered for her when she hid some communist movement documents.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

On page 30, I found it especially interesting that Richieu and Artie were such opposites; though both premature, Richieu was big and strong, while they weren't even sure if Artie was going to survive. Maybe that makes Artie always feel "less than" his brother. Of course his health may have been compromised by his mother's health, which were certainly poor due to being interned.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Two telling panels about his father and mother are on 30-31. At the bottom right of 30, Vladek comes across as very precise and controlling, as if he can only depend on himself and no one else. When he spills his pills, he emphatically turns down an offer for help, "NO! YOU DON'T KNOW COUNTING PILLS. I'LL DO IT..." (30).

A revealing panel about Anja is when she's lying on the couch, depressed, her eyebrows raised in anxiety and foreboding as she tells Vladek, "...I DON'T CARE. I JUST DON'T WANT TO LIVE" (31). Of course that admission is a grave cause of concern for Artie, as evident from his expression when he consults with his in-laws about what to do. (The in-laws care a great deal about their daughter and fortunately have lots of resources to help their daughter, from paying off the neighbor for her serving time on Anja's behalf to helping Artie start his own company.)

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?
The sanitarium is in marked contrast to the occupied village, with a flag with a swastika hanging from a building. I almost feel suffocated with the panels that follow, with swastikas dominating each. Though Poland has not been occupied to the extent that Germany has, what is happening in Germany is a foreshadowing of what will happen. In the panel on the upper-right, the swastika against a white backdrop is in contrast to the Star of David on a black background. The cats, who represent the German Nazi soldiers, seem to have mocking smiles on their faces, as they disparage the Jews, as evidenced from the mouse who looks down on the ground while holding an insulting sign, "I am a filthy Jew" (33). The panel to the right shows the soldiers beating Jews, and their faces are rendered like skulls, as if they are the messengers of death (33). In this case, even a woman is being held, her husband unable to assist her.

[Message #5 11:45:05 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Daniel Detrinidad:

What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

(30-35)
The beginning of the scene Vladek talks about the birth of his son Richiev and it explains why his photo is in Maus II because Artie wanted to remind the reader of his brother before the work. What I question is why is so important that he count his pills because he tells Artie, "You don't know counting pills I'll do it After... I'm an expert for this" (30). The next page is when we discovered that Anja is questioning her marriage and if she is really happy or not, "I have a good family.. I should be happy" (31) by saying this did she feel compelled to get married to Vladek for somebody else's sake. Her father said she had a breakdown so she must of suffer due to child birth. While dancing in the theater she realize she loves Vladek, "And She was so laughing and so happy, so happy, that she approached each time and kissed me, so happy she was" so would this be the end of her troubles and worries for Anja

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.
Vladek tells the story about his son Richiev and about Anja was said about her life so far and the family send her to a sanitarium where on the way their Vladek for the first time sees a Nazi Flag and Anja realizes after dancing with Vladek she loves him

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters? Vladek and Anja they seemed to be close and Vladek really loves Anja and does anything for her

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?
The Mouse with the I AM A FILTHY JEW Sign to symbolize the start of the war another one was THIS TOWN IS JEW FREE which began to round up jews and discriminate against them.

(7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The Frog symbolize the French.

[Message #6   11:45:28 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

MARIE HOM:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

These pages discuss the beginning of Anja and Vladeks marriage. It shows their first son Richieiu and also discusses that he never came out of the war. It also talks about how Anja became depressed after Richieiu was born and didn't want to live anymore. They take her to a sanitarium where Vladek took care of her. On the way to the sanitarium it shows the beginning of the war.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

After Vladek accidentally spills his pills while explaining his story to Artie, he automatically blames Artie. Even though Artie knew it wasn't his fault he offered to recount the pills later but Vladek refused his help. This shows that Vladek likes to show he can do things on his own. It also shows that Vladek feels like he can do things better than Artie. This could be because he survived the Holocaust.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Vladek really did love Anja because he took very good care of her while she was sick and depressed.

"I told her many jokes and stories to keep her busy..and she was so laughing and so happy, so happy, that she approached each time and kissed me, so happy she was."

This shows that they really did love each other..

It also shows that Vladek feels he could do things better than Artie when he says,

"Look! Now what you made me do! Artie-ME? Okay I'll recount them later. Vladek-No! you don't know counting pills. I'll do it after..I'm an EXPERT for this."
It also shows how bad it was when the war first begun,

"It was many, many such stories- synagogues, burned, jews beaten with no reason, whole towns pushing out all jews- Each story worse than the other."

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

The pictures are important in the scene as well as the dialogue. It helps you see what it looked like when the war first began. It also shows the body language between the characters to see how they interacted with each other.

[Message #7  11:48:10 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Zena Tarasena:
Anja suffered a nervous breakdown after giving birth to her first son, Richieu. So Vladek takes her to a sanatorium in Czechoslovakia. As Anja and Vladek and a fellow traveler pass the town center in the train they see a swastika flying over the town. The traveler tells them about the pogrom that is going on in Germany. The captions are important because they give more information about what is happening in Germany. The symbol of the swastika in the background is a good visual aid which helps to emphasize that the pogroms was an operation run by the Nazi to force the Jews out of the city (33).

[Message #8  11:50:50 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Daniel Detrinidad:
I think the setting where the Nazi's are taking over cities is important because if you look at it all of the background is black and it could be a metaphor of the dark time of WWII when things went bad for the jews and it's saying that the Nazi the Aryan race had complete control and whoever stood in the way was eliminated and that's what people feared about the Nazis back then. Also black represents darkness, fear, and evil so it could have been that the Nazi were bad people

[Message #9  11:51:51 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Kira Ostapenko:
i think its also important to note anja's breakdown cuz in class the other day we questioned what led to her suicide and this is the beginning of it, before the war and holocaust
It seems she was always depressed and never satisfied with anything even though she knows that she should be happy with everything she has.

so is her depression like a biological thing? like she was born like that?

it might be because she was taking all of those pills as well.

because she's constantly nervous

no nobody's born crazy it's something that makes her depressed we just don't know what it is their can be many reasons why
Jeianne Victoria:

i think her pills is what led to her depression.

Kira Ostapenko:

wait so is anja a jew

Zena Tarasena:

Yes, Anja was depressed and it was a biological thing. Depression is a mental disorder and it is passed on through genes.

Zena Tarasena:

Anja was taking the pills to control the depression

Zena Tarasena:

People who are depressed are often born that way.

karen wong:

She could have been born with a predisposition to getting depressed, but there probably have to be "triggers" that set her off.
Zena Tarasena:
Post partum depression could have been a trigger.

Daniel Detrinidad:
on Page 33 the Nazi flag is on every background to say that the Nazi Party has complete power.

MARIE HOM:
it says she became depressed after she gave birth

Kira Ostapenko:
but she was taking pills before the birth

Jeianne Victoria:
she's been taking the pills even before she met Vladek

Daniel Detrinidad:
those pills could have given her side effects and made her more depressed
Zena Tarasena:

How do we know the pills were not for depression?

Daniel Detrinidad:

exactly
tamara abualhsan:

In this panel Artie goes back to talk to his father about the holocaust. When doing so he finds his father counting his pills. Then he continues to tell him his life story when after he got married and Anja was friends with communist people and she was hiding important documentations the concerned the communist people.

When anja had given the package to the seamstress if really shows how good her relationships were with the people of the community. But show you what kinds of friends she had befriended like communist people which almost lead Artie to break of the marriage.

Some quotations was when Artie came to visit his father there were so many pills that he had to take it make you realize that he was In a really bad state concerning his health. He was counting in the double digits for his pills.

Also when Artie was going to break off their marriage because she was hiding the marriage papers it really brings in to perspective that he didn’t know his wife to well of even trusted her.

Other thing that are important to this scene but aren't in the pages listed was when valdek drop all his pill it really showed his frustration over little thing. This makes you think what had happened to him for him to act such ways.

Also when anja began to feel depressed was that caused by the people that she knew.

Raya Mesias:

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

Besides the dialogue, other text that is important to the scene especially on the bottom of page 28, is the animal that was chosen to depict certain people. For instance, on page 28, the police are depicted as pigs. Pigs could possible symbolize greed and being "dirty". With these associations, the reader can decipher or choose based on the general personalities of these animals (in comparison with mice-passive and small) who can possibly be the "bad" guy or the "good" guy-or which can be the more dominant.
Pages 26-29

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

26-29 is when we learned about Anja working with a communist and translating for them. She was warned that the government police will come and search her house for evidence. Anja thought that if she hid the package of letters to her neighbor that everything would be fine. But the neighbor who was a seamstress was arrested anyways for having the package.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Anja is featured. This passage shows how smart and brave Anja really is. I thought she was innocent, daddy's little girl but as it turns out she was more involved with things that it really seemed. But being the daddy's little girl and being fortunate enough to come from a well off family, they were able to repay the seamstress for her troubles. The father had so much money he started Anja and her family a business and made sure Anja and Vladek's kids would be taken care of. What father would treat their child after doing what Anja did? But it seems money is not an object for them so it's ok.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

From this passage you gain how much Vladek and Anja's father really loved her. They made sure she was covered and protected her. Vladek threaten to leave the marriage but it worked out and he called Anja "good" because she promised to stay away from the communist boy.

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

I really feel aside from Anja being featured, the beginning shows what Vladek has to do after eating, as routine he has to take so many drugs to stay alive and healthy. And it was a little alarming because the amount of drugs he takes is equivalent to those who have cancer or close to dying.

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

You gained how the war started with people all over helping with the conspiracy of Hitler. That there was something big that was going to happen and that's why Anja helped translate.

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?

You gain how brave Anja can be but how nerve racking she also is. Her face reaction and movement looks like she so scared and the Vladek was so concerned but after learning he was mad at Anja for being involved with the communist.
What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The scene with Vladek and Anja's father talking about business stood out. It seemed that the transaction of the father helping with the factory was done behind Anja's back or without her participation or involvement because the drawings were done in the dark.

Message #5 11:47:07 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010

tamara abualhsan:

did you guys believe that Vladek trusted Anja?

Message #6 11:47:37 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010

tamara abualhsan:

even though she was associated with communist people?

Message #7 11:47:37 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Belle Asuncion:

@Raya-I really like your point and agree with you about the police playing the wrong side.

Message #8 11:48:31 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Belle Asuncion:

@tamara- I think so, that Vladek believed she was only translating.

Message #9 11:48:59 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010

tamara abualhsan:

I agree with Raya point to

Message #10 11:49:55 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Raya Mesias:

@ Tamara: I definitely agree with you that Anja must have good connections with certain people—like the university professors, but I think that Anja had a good relationship with the seamstress—Miss Stefanska—because "Anja was a good customer". And this shows that Anja was well off because of her family's wealth.

And also with the idea of the communist papers—what do you think that was all about? Why was she "helping" communists, if so?

[Message #11 11:49:56 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

tamara abualhsan:

but even before he found out he wanted to break the marriage...what if she was do you think he would have still broke it of

[Message #12 11:51:14 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Belle Asuncion:

i was thinking of that, and I feel he just said it to threaten her but he needed money, and he loved her. Do you think the father really cared about Anja, as if she was the favorite or what is it just responsibility? It seemed he had more respect for Vladek.

[Message #13 11:51:18 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

tamara abualhsan:

i think she was...and she was upset and became depressed for leaving the communist people

[Message #14 11:51:47 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:

In these set of panels there is a lot going on. The dad is counting all his pills and reveals some of his health problems. These health problems might be a direct result of the holocaust. Vladek also tells a story about Anja's first boyfriend who was a communist and got the neighbor locked up for hiding some papers. The father in law also gave vladek money to start a factory. From these panels you can tell that the father in law is rich and isn't cheap. When Vladek found out about the story of the communist
papers he wanted to end the marriage so you can tell that he is a serious person. " when I found out this story I was ready to end the marriage"(29) by Anja hiding the papers and hiding it all from her husband I think she is kind of shady. She was doing all this for her x-boyfriend. Since that lady got locked up for some papers you can see what kind of times they were living in. no freedom of speech or nothing like that. I thought it was funny how on page 28 he drew the cops as pigs. That symbolizes how he feels about the cops. another visual element that stuck out to me is In the last scene on 29 when the father in law gives him the money his eyes are bulging and the father in law is just chillin waving his hand as to say "it's nothing" this shows that it was a big deal to Vladek but not to the father in law.

[Message #15  11:53:46 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:

In these set of panels there is a lot going on. The dad is counting all his pills and reveals some of his health problems. These health problems might be a direct result of the holocaust. Vladek also tells a story about Anjas first boyfriend who was a communist and got the neighbor locked up for hiding some papers. The father in law also gave vladek money to start a factory. From these panels you can tell that the father in law is rich and isn't cheap. When Vladek found out about the story of the communist papers he wanted to end the marriage so you can tell that he is a serious person. " when I found out this story I was ready to end the marriage"(29) by Anja hiding the papers and hiding it all from her husband I think she is kind of shady. She was doing all this for her x-boyfriend. Since that lady got locked up for some papers you can see what kind of times they were living in. no freedom of speech or nothing like that. I thought it was funny how on page 28 he drew the cops as pigs. That symbolizes how he feels about the cops. another visual element that stuck out to me is In the last scene on 29 when the father in law gives him the money his eyes are bulging and the father in law is just chillin waving his hand as to say "it's nothing" this shows that it was a big deal to Vladek but not to the father in law.

[Message #16  11:54:04 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Raya Mesias:

@ Belle: I definitely agree with you on your number 2 response. It seems that because of Anja's delicate condition, her father still obligates himself that he must ensure that his daughter will be well taken care of. And with the allegations of being associated with communists, which was dangerous back then, he still wants his daughter to be safe.

[Message #17  11:54:14 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

tamara abualhsan:
@jhon ...i dont think he was her x-boyfreind he was just helping the communist people

[Message #18  11:54:24 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Belle Asuncion:

I think the communist papers are papers that revealed what the Nazis were planning to do. Because only the germans in the government knew what Hitler had planned and that took years to build camps and to make propagandas against Jewish and Polish people. Maybe they were documents and Anja translated it for those who knew what Hitler was planning.

[Message #19  11:54:51 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:

my bad everybody i was having tecnical problems

[Message #20  11:56:02 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:

i wouldnt trust her

[Message #21  11:56:15 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Belle Asuncion:

I agree with you John that last scene with the money was a big help and realization for Vladek that his dreams of having a higher status is coming true.

[Message #22  11:56:49 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Raya Mesias:

@ Belle: (Message #18) That is a very interesting insight you have there Belle. I'm very curious about what those papers were about too. And whether or not Anja was actually part of it.
karen wong:

Good points about signs that Vladek's health is poor; it is interesting to note how he goes about the task of counting the pills, and how upset he gets when they spill. He comes across as someone who is very precise and wants to maintain control, however little.

Raya's point about why the Poles are cast as pigs also was thought provoking. Another group pointed out that the factory burglary may have been a hate crime. If Jews are stripped of their rights, most likely they'll be taken advantage of in other ways, too. The question that's raised is whether other Poles than took advantage of Jews while they were being victimized by the Nazis.

tamara abualhsan:

or maybe anja became depressed and she killed her self because she knew what was going to happen during the holocaust and was associated with it. and she must have realized that she cant take holding that secret anymore so she ends up committing suicide

Belle Asuncion:

@John, you wouldn't trust Anja? Maybe I'm a girl, I would trust her and stay in- love. =)

karen wong:

Tamara's and Belle's points about Anja not being so innocent was also quite interesting. If her father wasn't able to bail her out, I wonder if she would have been so involved in the underground communist movement. Then again, she was in college, so perhaps that is where she was first exposed.

tamara abualhsan:
i agree!!! :)

[Message #28  12:00:48 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Raya Mesias:

@ John and @ Belle: You guys present very interesting points surrounding the question if we were to put ourselves in Vladek's shoes....should we trust Anja? I mean in terms of what we already know about Vladek--he's a practical person, and because of Anja's family's wealth... I think he wouldn't risk all those opportunities--like the benefits of owning a textile factory--to chance.

[Message #29  12:00:50 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Val Tosheff:

Anja was acting as irresponsible, jeopardizing the whole family helping another person's cause.

[Message #30  12:01:10 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:

i wouldn't trust her because she let that lady sit in jail plus she was doing all this behind her husbands back for her x-boyfriend

[Message #31  12:01:11 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Belle Asuncion:

@tamara-wow, if that's so, I would take my life too, to hold all that information and not be able to prevent it... I wouldn't be able to handle. Maybe that's why she was always nervous. How long has she worked for the Warsaw boy?

@karen-It would have never crossed my mind, for the Poles to take advantage of the Jews that was victimized but then again this is what's happening in Arizona, a whole state against one group of people. It's possible.

[Message #32  12:01:23 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

john stoller:
and she was a communist

[Message #33 12:01:48 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Raya Mesias:
@ Val (Message #30): You never know, Val, it might be her cause too.

[Message #34 12:02:57 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
john stoller:
good work every body
Kile Boele:

1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

Vladek is just coming home from a trip. His store has been robbed and the polish people are rioting against the Jews. Anja was looking better meaning healthier. They discussed leaving to Sosnowiec if things got really bad.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters? Vladek was featured and he received a draft notice meaning that the war had started and that things were really bad. He sent Anja and Richieu away to Sosnowiec. And he told her to collect her doll collection which was useful later because they were able to sell it.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Janina is featured to put the point across that not all polish people hate the Jews and want them to leave. "How can you say such a thing. I think of you as part of my own family"

Genevieve Katoa:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

In this set of panels, Vladek is telling Artie about how he helped Anja through her depression by taking her to a sanitarium where she could focus on regaining her happiness. He then goes on to tell Artie about how when he returned back home with a happy Anja, his successful textile factory had been robbed and so he had to start all over again. The last set of panels describes the start of riots in the town against Jews.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Vladek: He is a very well-rounded man. He cares about his wife's well-being, but also stays focused on making his business a success.
Anja: She is depressed and anxious. She worries often.

Anja's father: He is very well-off. He offers to restart the textile business for Vladek after the robbery.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Vladek has a sense of humor (page 34, last panel). They are talking about how good looking their son is and he jokes, "Just like his father." The next page goes on to say, "I told her many jokes and stories to keep her busy." We can tell Vladek really cares about Anja and wants to ensure that she regains her happiness.

Anja is an anxious girl as we can see from page 34, "Well, what did the doctor say??" She is so anxious to find out about her condition. She is worried about her health and well-being just as much as Vladek is. She also exclaims on page 38, "Vladek, I'm afraid!" when he receives his draft notice in the mail. She never seems to be at ease; she's always worried about something.

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

Vladek's factory being robbed. Maybe it wasn't a robbery, but instead a hate crime.

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?

Vladek was trying to keep his cool, but when the draft letter came he started to realize there is something to worry about.
Mathwe Han:

1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

Vladek is taking Anja a vacation to recover from her illness. During the vacation, Vladek has seen many Nazi taking over the business of Jews and Jews are running away from Nazi in the border of Germany. After seeing the takeovers from Germany, Vlakek thinks if his factory's robbery has to do with Anti-Semitic activity.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Vladek. I think Vladek loves Anja and he even left his work to recover Anja from her illness. Vladek is kind of a business person, and he is always pessimistic about everything, and also thinking carefully for the work, is that some kind of anti-Semitic activity. (38). For Anja's father, he believes in Vladek abilities and even says he can help in to build a factory again. I think Vladek and Anja's father have good relationship.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

I think Vladek is very observant and sensitive person if we look the way he thinks and talks with other people. When he sees that Jews' businesses have been wiped out by Nazi, he does not say many things. After he is back from the vacation, he was told that his factory has been robbed. he replies, "What" (38). He is so shocked that he did not expect that to happen to his own. Also he asks Anja's father that is the robbery has to do with Anti-Semitic activity. Even though Anja's father said no, he still thinks that there is something has to do with Anti-Semitic activity.

Genevieve Katoa:

Yes, Kile. They did put Jonina in to show that not all Polish people hated Jews. Why do you think they made the Polish people pigs in the comic?
I agree with you Mathwe, he is very observant and sensitive. He's a real man!

[Message #8  11:48:13 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Kile Boele:

they made the polish pigs because they make good sausage

[Message #9  11:49:29 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Katrina Recinto:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

Anja becomes very depressed after giving birth to her and Vladek's first son, so the doctor suggested that she goes to the sanitarium.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Vladek's seems to be really supportive and patient with Anja's condition. He brought her to the theater or took her out dancing which really helped better her condition. Even though Anja in the beginning, when she first arrived at the sanitarium seemed to have lost hope, Vladek was optimistic, telling her how "beautiful these gardens are" and how their "room is like a luxury hotel" (36). He tries very hard to make her feel better and comfortable.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

In the beginning, I assumed that Vladek only married Anja for her wealth, but on page 37, we can see that Anja and Vladek are truly in love with one another. Also, we can see that Anja’s sickness brought them closer together and made their relationship stronger: "And she was so laughing and so happy, so happy that she approached each time and kissed me, so happy she was" (37).

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

I think that the scene on page 38 is very important because Vladek finds out that that "the factory has been robbed" (38). How would this affect their life? Since Anja is very emotional person, would this terribly affect her, and make her depress again?

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?
On page 38, we can see how shocked and worried Vladek and Anja were when they found out about what happened to the factory.

(7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

[Message #10  11:50:10 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
karen wong:
Interesting point, Subha, about the robbery being a hate crime, or perhaps the thieves were taking advantage of a chaotic situation in which they knew that Jews were being targeted. (message #4)

Also interesting is Kile's point about their caretaker standing by them so far (37). All, what did you make of Anja's comment in that panel?

[Message #11  11:51:48 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Kile Boele:
She is saying that Most polish people find it easy to get angry or riled up when it comes to the jews.

[Message #12  11:51:50 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Genevieve Katoa:
Anja is a bit stereotypical. But I think it comes out of her nervousness. She feels she can't trust anyone.

[Message #13  11:52:32 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Genevieve Katoa:
But it was rude of her to say it right in front of her caretaker's face.

[Message #14  11:54:02 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Mathwe Han:
i agree with you Katrina, i think Vladek married Anja not because of her money. but he think marrying her may be a great boost to his career since Anja's father is very supportive with him. also he takes Anja to vacation because he cares about her well-being not the money.

[Message #15  11:55:56 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Mathwe Han:
Anja is very sensitive and cannot think properly because she always decides everything looking at the surface. she never goes deep down and think the main cause or the main theme behind it.

[Message #16  11:56:32 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Genevieve Katoa:
Katrina, regarding your answer to the body language question: they do seem shocked, don't they? I think they were especially shocked because they were worried about whether it was a hate crime or not. Vladek tells Artie though that he doesn't believe that it was part of some kind of anti-semitic activity. Maybe years later he felt this way, but at the time all these things were taking place, he must've worried about whether or not it was hate crime.

[Message #17  11:57:29 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Katrina Recinto:
I wonder how the robbery would deeply affect Anja, as well as Vladek? Considering the fact that Anja is very emotional. Would she become depress again?

[Message #18  11:58:19 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
sharma subha:
Well i dont think the robbery made that big of an impact because a few months later they were well off again

[Message #19  11:58:50 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Mathwe Han:
Gene> i think Valdek suspects it is a hate crime after he has seen all the ritos against the Jews during the vacation.

[Message #20  12:00:23 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Katrina Recinto:
Oh okay. thanks sharma. I didnt get that far yet

[Message #21  12:01:18 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
sharma subha:
no problem its mentioned on page 37

[Message #22  12:01:37 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Kile Boele:
it made an initial impact but i agree that the overall impact was not very bad

[Message #23  12:01:40 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Katrina Recinto:
lol wait, never mind

[Message #24  12:01:55 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
karen wong:
I would think that Valdek is totally in shock because the robbery, combined with what he observed in Czechoslovakia, made him realize that life was descending into chaos.

[Message #25  12:02:01 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Genevieve Katoa:
About my comment earlier, I didn't mean to say Anya was stereotypical. I meant to say that she was stereotyping the Polish.

[Message #26 12:02:33 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

sharma subha:

I would say he was shocked but he tried to keep his cool around Anja.
Bogdan Kurpita:

Maus pg. 17-20

1. Vladek speaks of when he first met Anja and how Lucia came back and was jealous of Anja and completely against Vladek getting engaged to her. He also describes the first time that he came to Anja's house and how he met her family. Anja's parents tell Vladek that she is sickly and on medicine, but that does not stop him from loving her.

2. Vladek, Lucia, Anja and her parents are all featured in these panels.

3. The insights that I gained from the dialogue were that Vladek was a lady's man; he had women begging him to be with them, as in the case of Lucia, "She fell on the floor and held my legs 'Don't run away'." Also, Anja is a very bright young woman; even her director speaks very fondly of her and Vladek is once more assured that he made the right choice in being with Anja.

4. Besides the dialogue, Vladek's narrative is key to these pages, as it is his story that Artie is attempting to record so, it is important that Vladek comments on his point of view of the whole situation. Vladek's narrative also provides the reader with background information about Anja's family and shows the feelings of Vladek at that time.

5. From the setting, you can infer that the first time that Vladek met Anja's parents was in a formal, dinner atmosphere at their home. This shows that he was the guest of honor and that the family was also very well off because of the business that they had and also because of the way that everyone is dressed and because of the kind of food that is on the dinner table (silverware, chicken, potatoes), everyone dressed in suits and dresses with pearl for jewelry.

6. The gestures of Vladek when he is speaking to Lucia portray impatience and a desire to end the relationship. Her gestures on the other hand show that she is desperate and "clingy." When Vladek is around Anja, he is very delicate and proper with her, unlike with Lucia, with whom he raises his voice and tells her to get out. His facial expressions show that he is irritated at her for showing up to his place uninvited.

7. The visual elements that stand include the furniture, the food, the clothes in Anja's closet and the dress of each of the characters. All these elements speak of social class or status.
Emma Quadra:

1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

Vladek is meeting Anja for the first time and he is starting to like her.

2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Vladek likes Anja more for her brains than her looks as he tells his son that she isn't that pretty "not so like Lucia... but If you talked a little to her, you started loving her more and more" (20).

3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Anja is an intelligent woman who comes from a wealthy family. She also knows how to speak English and can write in Polish very beautifully. Also she keeps everything neat and tidy just like Vladek.

4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

The text mentions that "it passed maybe a week until Lucia again came and aw the photo..." (19). This shows that already Vladek is falling in love with Anja and it seems he's making it official since he framed her picture and placed it in his room.

5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

Well as Vladek places the frame on his desk he seems to be very careful making sure that it looks just right showing that he really cares about Anja. Also, the way he looks at Lucia and how he pushes her away shows that he doesn't care about her opinion concerning Anja and even defends Anja by saying "looks aren't everything, Lucia" (19).

6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?

Vladek and Anja seem to already be in love as Vladek tells the professor that he picked her for her intelligence and Anja seems to be blushing and very pleased with his answer.

7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The picture of Anja stands out to me for not only is it in the picture frame that Vladek is placing on his desk, but it is also in full length on the side. I don't know if that symbolizes anything, maybe his love for her.

Patricia Stillman:
Vladek tells Artie about his first involved girlfriend and how she left him for a higher class woman named Anja.

Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Vladek, Anja and Lucia are featured and we are introduced to Anja mostly. However a lot is shown about Vladek's personality and priorities. Like he is concerned that Lucia does not have money for a dowry and that Anja is neat. Lucia turns out to be quite a desperate person, literally clinging to Vladek.

What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Vladek is quite concerned with money and a person's standing. He leaves Lucia to marry a well off but nearly as pretty woman. But is also swayed by Anja's intelligence.

What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The photograph of Anja shows her class best. She is in a full length fur coat w/ fur accessories, a very fashionable hat with sleek boots.

Justin Narayan:

1. In these set of panels, Lucia is begging for Vladek to keep her, but he would rather have brain over beauty and for this reason he would rather be with Anja.

2. They meet Anja's old professors and tells Vladek that he is lucky to have Anja and that she is one of her top students. When Vladek goes to Anja's parents house for dinner, he goes through her closet to see if she is organized. He likes what he see's, but he finds pills which worries him.

3. I gained that even though Vladek is known as a sheik, he would rather have a smart woman than a gorgeous woman. He acknowledges that "Looks aren't everything"(17).

4. It's important that the scene showed Vladek going through Anja's closet.

5. That part of the text is important because even though he likes her, it seems like he still doesn't trust her. He wants to see if she is really as how she presents herself and if she is keeping any secrets such as the pills.

6. Through body language and gestures in this panel, it seems like Anja and Vladek really like each other since he has his arms around her while they walk through the park.
7. A visual that stand out is on page 20, when Lucia is holding onto Vladek's leg begging him not to leave. When he escapes, Vladek says "I saw now that I went too far with her" (20). He realizes that he may have led Lucia to beleive he loves her, but in reality he only wants Anja which is why they got engaged.

[Message #6 11:47:03 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

karen wong:

Great insights, all. You may want to focus on certain panels to conduct a close analysis.

[Message #7 11:47:15 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

jinkyrhea santamaria:

1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

Art introduces Lucia and the relationship they have together. However, once Vladek met Anja he was much more interested by her, so, decides that he wants to get engage to her. Though, she may not be a beauty as Lucia stated Vladek did not seem to mind since she does come from a well off family.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Anja and Vladek are featured. What this scene shows about Vladek's personality is that he plans out for the future. Since he knows that Anja comes from a well-off family, he would rather choose her than Lucia. He seem to have looked down on Lucia since she or her family did not have "dowry." As for Anja they reveal she is skinny and become nervous.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

What I gain from this dialogue is some answer to why Anja might have committed suicide as it states, "Later a friend told me the pills were only because she was skinny and nervous" (21). So, this shows that she is sick and this probably contributed to the reason to why she killed herself.

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

Another important scene was when Vladek almost push Lucia off his shoes because it shows the "heartless" part of his personality.

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

What the setting reminds me is a somewhat metropolis kind of place.

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?
The gestures I got from Anja is that she is a sensitive woman because she immediately does not want to hear him out when she found out about his secret friend Lucia.

(7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The visual element that stood out for me was when they were having dinner and then Vladek states that he has moved into one of his father-in-laws apartments. It shows how rich Anja's family is.

[Message #8  11:49:55 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Bogdan Kurpita:
do u think it was right of Vladek to go through Anja's closet?
And what do you think would have happened if she found out?

[Message #9  11:51:32 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Emma Quadra:
I don't think it was necessarily right for him to do that, maybe if he just looked around, but not snooped around in her stuff.

[Message #10  11:52:07 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Emma Quadra:
if she finds out? I don't know it doesn't seem that she does.

[Message #11  11:52:08 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Patricia Stillman:
@Bogdon
Yes, I found that very strange that he did that. I would think more privacy would be upheld. It was almost like he was checking out a car he was going to buy.

[Message #12  11:53:50 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]
Bogdan Kurpita:

do u think that in that time this was expected...that a girl's whole life should be open for viewing before
the guy decides to go through with the engagement?

[jMessage #13  11:54:08 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

jinkyrhea santamaria:

If that was me in Anja's position I would not find that acceptable on any level.

[jMessage #14  11:54:44 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Justin Narayan:

I guess he wanted to see how Anja's private life is. Or perhaps to find out a secret. I think he wanted to
make sure he is really getting what he sees.


Patricia Stillman:

yes she old as they we're saying, maybe he suspected something was wrong with her.

[jMessage #16  11:56:07 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Emma Quadra:

yeah I kind of agree with Justin because when people get engaged they don't just jump into it, they need
to know about eachother, but I think he should have talked with Anja instead of snooping around in her
room.

[jMessage #17  11:56:09 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

jinkyrhea santamaria:

Who really does that though? why snoop?
[Message #18  11:57:01 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

jinkyrhea santamaria:

@emma yeah its better if they get to know each other.. than snoop around her things

[Message #19  11:57:53 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Bogdan Kurpita:

good point. Well idk.. Judging from Vladek's personality and character, he is very organized, neat, and
wants to know every detail to better prepare himself.

He is a schemer and snooping around for the best offer or best opportunities is what helped him to
survive during the war.

[Message #20  12:00:30 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Justin Narayan:

True, I agree with Bogdan. He just wanted to prepare himself. He could've done it through talking to her
too, but theres always that chance that Anja would leave out something when telling Vladek about
herself.

[Message #21  12:01:13 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

jinkyrhea santamaria:

well atleast Vladek also explained that how Anja engage herself makes him love her more ans more.
[Message #2   11:42:39 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Ariana Bickham:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

-Anja has been hiding a secret from her family. She has been receiving letters from a friend who is a communist. She gives the letters to a neighbor to hide but the police soon find them and arrest the neighbor. Anja then becomes depressed. Anja's father suggests that Vladek open up a factory with the support of him. Anja soon becomes depressed and they take her to a sanitarium to help her get better. Along the way to the sanitarium they pass by a town that does not allow Jews. Anja and Vladek were very surprised this was even taking place.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

-Anja, who seems to be hiding something deeper than what we've learned so far. She hasn't been telling her family the whole truth.

-Vladek is trying to be a good husband and provide for his family.

-Anja's father, who has been very helpful with them and is trying to help them get their lives started. He'll do anything to protect his daughter.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

-"But I don't care. I just don't want to live"-Anja. There has to be something Anja is hiding from her family for the reason she doesn't want to live anymore.

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

-"Father-in-law paid the cost from the lawyers and gave to her some money- it cost maybe 15,000 zlotys" Anja's father paid off the seamstress for keeping the secret of Anja so Anja wouldn't be harmed in any way. Why would her father want to keep such a dark secret?

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

-The setting is set pre-war; everyone is starting to question everyone's trust.

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?
Anja seems afraid and weak. She doesn't seem like she is happy. There must be a deeper issue going on than what is shown.

Anja's father seems to have a solution to every problem.

(7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

-The Swastika sign which is something they hadn't seen before. It could be the beginning of the war.

[Message #3 11:42:53 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

karen wong:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

The panels are on the family, both in the past and the present. Richieu was born in 1937, and Artie after the war; both were premature. The set of panels is primarily about the beginning of their marriage, when Vladek is trying to establish his factory that was funded by his father-in-law, but then he takes time off to go with Anja to a sanitarium since she is mentally unstable, following the arrest of her neighbor who covered for her when she hid some communist movement documents.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

On page 30, I found it especially interesting that Richieu and Artie were such opposites; though both premature, Richieu was big and strong, while they weren't even sure if Artie was going to survive. Maybe that makes Artie always feel "less than" his brother. Of course his health may have been compromised by his mother's health, which were certainly poor due to being interned.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

Two telling panels about his father and mother are on 30-31. At the bottom right of 30, Vladek comes across as very precise and controlling, as if he can only depend on himself and no one else. When he spills his pills, he emphatically turns down an offer for help, "NO! YOU DON'T KNOW COUNTING PILLS. I'LL DO IT..." (30).

A revealing panel about Anja is when she's lying on the couch, depressed, her eyebrows raised in anxiety and foreboding as she tells Vladek, "...I DON'T CARE. I JUST DON'T WANT TO LIVE" (31). Of course that admission is a grave cause of concern for Artie, as evident from his expression when he consults with his in-laws about what to do. (The in-laws care a great deal about their daughter and fortunately have lots of resources to help their daughter, from paying off the neighbor for her serving time on Anja's behalf to helping Artie start his own company.)
(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

The sanitarium is in marked contrast to the occupied village, with a flag with a swastika hanging from a building. I almost feel suffocated with the panels that follow, with swastikas dominating each. Though Poland has not been occupied to the extent that Germany has, what is happening in Germany is a foreshadowing of what will happen. In the panel on the upper-right, the swastika against a white backdrop is in contrast to the Star of David on a black background. The cats, who represent the German Nazi soldiers, seem to have mocking smiles on their faces, as they disparage the Jews, as evidenced from the mouse who looks down on the ground while holding an insulting sign, "I am a filthy Jew" (33). The panel to the right shows the soldiers beating Jews, and their faces are rendered like skulls, as if they are the messengers of death (33). In this case, even a woman is being held, her husband unable to assist her.

[Message #4  11:43:03 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Orion Smith:

1. In these couple of pages they have their first son, who we find out would not make it through the war. We also learn about how hard the pregnancy was on Anja, as she became very depressed and had to be sent to an asylum. On the way to the asylum they encounter their first Nazi flags and for the first time start discussing the terrible things that are happening to Jews. By the end it appears that Anja has recovered and her and Vladeks love is stronger than ever.

2. Anja is once again portrayed as a fragile and feeble person. She also has a lot of love for Vladek. Vladek appears to have good relations with everyone in the family as they trust him to take care of Anja at the asylum. He also has built a strong relationship with her father who agreed to watch the factory for him.

3. The language used makes it very easy to see how bad Anja is, "But I don't care. I just don't want to live."

4. There are a couple text that refer to the year which is foreboding as it becomes clear how close they are to war.

5. The one setting that was really shocking was the town which had a banner over it saying "This Town is Jew Free"; to not be at war and just see something like that must be pretty terrifying. The setting displayed in Germany is very dark as the background is just a black Nazi emblem

6. You can tell how shocked they are to see the Nazi flag by the looks on their faces. Also Anja's stress level the entire time with the sweat on page 34 to the way she is laying on the couch. Also the Germans are drawn choking out a woman and beating a man with a sign saying, "I am a filthy Jew".
7. The visual elements that stood out the most was the picture of the train and, although they are taking it to a good place, the next picture is of a Nazi flag, which may be foreshadowing how the trains will be used in the near future.

[Message #5 11:45:40 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Riana Mesias:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

The interview between father and son is a continuation within the second chapter. Initially what is happening in the panel is that their first son, Richeiv has been born. It is particularly surprising in that instead of being very happy, Anja's anxiety attacks have been stronger and she says that she "wants to end her life". Because of this, Anja is unable to care for her son and so he is set up with a governess. Meanwhile, Anja and Valdek go to a sanitarium.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

Who is featured is mainly the developing relationship between Anja and Valdek. In this chapter, it is revealed that they are already married and that they have their first son already. In addition, what is also revealed is that the Nazi regime is beginning. Anja at this point is very insecure maybe due to her anxiety attacks, but the question is anxiety to what? In order to calm her and for her to find trust, Valdek cheers her up while they are at the sanitarium.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.

"Look how beautiful these gardens are" says Valdek and in response Anja replies, "Uh huh." It seems that from this particular section of dialogue that Anja is losing reality in that her stress has not only taken over her physically, but mentally causing to her to be more insecure.

(4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

Other important texts are the comments about what is happening in that a lot of discriminative comments are addressed to the Jews such as in page 33 in that it is revealed that near the sanitarium there was a town in that, "the synagogues were burned and Jews were beaten for no reason." This expressed a lot of fear during the time because no one knew what was going to happen next or if they were going to be the next victims.

(5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

Insights from the setting is that since Valdek and Anja are moving from a place to a place, the setting of the book at the time is not at an exact location giving the notion that they are moving quickly, the actual
time line of events is very quick also. It seems that without notice that the Nazi regime is going their persecution of many Jews.

(6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?

From the gestures and body language of the characters it seems that Anja is quite distant first from anyone in that her anxiety is taking a toll on her again. In order to help her, Valdek tries to reassure her that everything is alright but it is ironic in that in the history's timeline Poland is uneasy in that the Nazi regime is beginning to take over. Valdek tries to comfort Anja by reassuring her that the doctor says that she's alright and trying to tell her jokes.

(7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

Visual elements that stand out are that Anja's face seems very stressful and aged from the last chapter and that the idea of time being very quick is evident in that the Nazi regime is swiftly over the land very quickly and its effects are seen in that several of their friends or family members are being brought into questioning.

[Message #6 11:46:14 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Arielle Bronson:

(1) Begin with a brief overview of what is happening in this set of panels.

In this set of panels Vladek and Anja welcome their first baby boy and soon after Vladek returns to work at the factory he is called home to find Anja has fallen very sick. Arrangements are made for Anja to stay at a sanitarium until she regains herself again and Vladek accompanies her. On the train there they get their first sight of the Nazi flag and the Nazi symbol, swastika, and stories are told of the growing power the Nazi are accomplishing in neighboring towns such as Brandenberg. Vladek and Anja arrive at the very upscale sanitarium and begin their day to day routines. To end this set of panels, Vladek and Anja are at a dancing café and he is trying to clear her mind of all that is going on by reciting a funny story from his past.

(2) Who is featured? What can you infer about their personalities and their relationships with other characters?

In these panels the main characters featured are Vladek and Anja. You can infer from these few panels that their relationship is very close and that the love between them continues to hold them together through each other's hard times, with this first instant of Anja getting sick.

(3) What insights did you gain from the dialogue? Cite specific quotations.
Some insight I gained from the dialogue was when and where the Nazi coming to power first began. "it was the beginning of 1938, before the war-hanging high in the center of the town, it was a Nazi flag" (32).

4) Besides the dialogue, what other text is important to this scene and in what ways?

Some of the text the stood out to be important were the words in bold, such as, "I just don't want to live," (31) "Look!" (32) and "Jew free,"(33) because just by reading those few words you can see a connection between them and how sooner or later these words would be apart a major part of the Holocaust.

5) What insights can you gain from the setting as well as how it is rendered?

From the setting I can see that it is a part that has not been raided, so to speak, by the Nazis yet, and that this area seems, by the way it's being portrayed is a very high-class society.

6) What insights can you gain from the gestures and body language of the characters?

On pages 32 and 33 the body language shows mice with horrified grief and worry. The gestures such as the cats with poles and mice with their heads looking down implies an obvious superior over inferior role, as well as a sense of embarrassment for Jews and fulfilling satisfaction for the Nazi with their devilish grins.

7) What visual elements stand out, and what might they symbolize?

The obvious symbols I noticed were the Nazi flag, the swastika, the star of David, signs held by a Jew saying "I am a filthy Jew," (33) and in one panel when Vladek and Anja were dancing in the café I noticed a cat waitress, which made me wonder, if cats are the symbol of Nazi why are they in a common socializing area with mice (Jews) and pigs (Polands).

[Message #7  11:51:42 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Orion Smith:

If their family had so much money and there were all of these stories about the Nazi's why wouldn't they just move somewhere else?

[Message #8  11:52:41 AM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Arielle Bronson:

Orion: i completely argee with the forshadowing with the trains in the background, because we've learned that becomes the Nazi's source of transportation of the Jews.
Riana Mesias:

That's a good question, if something like that was happening in the country I would move too. But it was probably because they didn't want to leave the factory.

Ariana Bickham:

Arielle- good point on the visual elements for question 7 with the cat (nazi), mice (jews) and pigs (poland), I never thought of it like that and the connection they might have.

Arielle Bronson:

Something else I noticed in one of the pictures on page 33 bottom left corner, was right behind the banner hanging with "this is a jew free town" you can notice in the background that the swastika is in place of where a sun would be, symbolizing the obvious that the Nazi aren't bringing providing light for the Jews rather taking it from them and putting them in a state of darkness.

Riana Mesias:

That a good observation Arielle. Did you also notice how fast the story is taking? It's also ironic in that Valdek tries to reassure Anja, but in context of what is happening to the country everything is not alright.

Riana Mesias:

You could also say that the Nazi flag in that scene is a foreshadowing of what will come. Good point!
Orion Smith:
Riana- good connection between the anxiety of Anja and the uneasyness of Poland

Riana Mesias:
Thank you. I think that it's sort of symbolic, I bet a lot of people were feeling like that at the time.

Arielle Bronson:
Orion: I dont necessarily believe that money had anything to do with whether you got taken away or not because on page 33 top right corner you can see how they explain how a man had to sell his business to a German. So I would have to infer that it was a thing of luck whether you got of of thge country, and it all depended on when you decided to leave. So people got word of what was happening, both richa and poor and others rich and poor and didnt fast enough and got taken away.

Riana Mesias:
What I also found particularly interesting in that the anxiety of what she did overcame the feelings that a new mother should have like wanting to take care of her new baby. What do you guys think?

Ariana Bickham:
Riana- post-pardom depression? maybe?
Riana: I did notice how the story picked up really fast, but im pretty sure that in reality all of it did happen this fast, because once the Jews realized what was happening to them it was too late for any of them to try and leave. And I do think its ironic that Vladek tries to reassure Anja, but on the other hand that could just be him trying to better his wives health?

[Message #20 12:01:25 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Riana Mesias:

I agree with Aurielle, but I also think that some families did try to get out by using their money connections, it might have been a huge advantage for them. But I also agree with what Orion said earlier, that the Nazis probably had control over the transportation system too.

[Message #21 12:01:30 PM, Wednesday, April 28, 2010]

Ariana Bickham:

the anxiety probably didn't help the depression she felt after giving birth