Study Guide

Chapter 3

1. What childhood offense was Artie guilty of, and how does Vladek characterize Anja’s leniency on this?

2. Why was Vladek’s father so reluctant to let him serve in the Polish Army? What means did he use to keep Vladek out?

3. Why does Vladek continue to shoot at a soldier who holds up his hands in surrender?

4. Briefly characterize Vladek’s response to the knowledge that he killed Jan, a German soldier.

5. What do the Nazis see as proof that Vladek has never had to work hard in his life? What is unusual about one frame on page 51 that interrupts the story? What literary term may this be an example of?

6. In what way does Vladek demonstrate his practicality, self-motivation, and desire to survive?

7. List three significant events that happen to Vladek during “Parshas Truma”.

8. How is Vladek and the other Jewish prisoners experience as P.O.W.’s differ from the other Polish prisoners?

9. What do we learn about Vladek’s character based upon his conservation of the chocolate bars?

10. How does Spiegelman visually portray Vladek’s attempt to pass a non-Jewish Polish citizen?

11. What does the incident involving Vladek’s father’s beard reveal about the Nazi soldiers?
12. What evidence do we see that implies Artie has not always been very sensitive to the events his father has suffered through?

13. What does Vladek do that infuriates Artie? What was Vladek’s motivation for this action?

List any words/things you don’t understand, or questions you have that we did not cover. I have a few listed for you.

Wehrmacht – pronounced (wer-mact) the German Armed Forces
Gestapo – an abbreviation of “Geheime Staatspolizei,” the secret state police, the SS
Annexed – attached to; incorporated into a larger body
Reich – land annexed to Germany, later meaning the Nazi regime
Protectorate – land controlled by the German government
Er Verbultete – pronounced (Ver-blue –tait) ear
Jan – pronounced (Yon) the German soldier Vladek shot
Bar Mitzvah – Jewish rite of passage when a boy becomes a man, usually at age 12 or 13.