For your second major paper, you will need to perform a close reading of an image from *Maus I* or *Maus II*. Based on the various terms we have learned about graphic novels, and the different techniques that authors use within them, you should be able to implement them in this close reading. **This short close reading should be 3-6 pages, but will likely fall on the shorter end of those limits.** I have provided multiple options that lend themselves to interesting readings, but you will also have the opportunity to select one yourself.

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| **Choose from the following:**   1. The hanging (83) 2. "Prisoner on the Hell Planet" (Artie's own narrative within the text) (100-103) 3. Vladek destroys the journals (158-159) 4. Artie's guilt for writing (41) 5. Vladek's racism (98-100) 6. Pick your own panel (approved by me) |

You will need to make an argument about the panel you select that does more than simply explain *what* is happening. Instead, think about *how* Spiegelman presents the visual narrative and *why* he elects to do it in that specific way. It will help to think about two to three formal elements that strike you as significant when you first begin to make your argument. **You should structure your thesis accordingly: Spiegelman uses bleeds across disjointed gutters in order to indicate Vladek's progressive inability to control his surroundings in the Nazi camps.** In this case, your paper would focus on ways in which the use of gutters and bleeding in your selected panel emphasize Vladek's struggle. You may think about this in terms of the larger concept expressed in a panel, but ultimately your analysis should cover AT LEAST two formal elements. Formal elements include, but are not limited to: frame, gutter, bleed, foreground, graphic weight, figures (face, hands, feet, eyes, etc.), color, line direction (vertical, horizontal, diagonal, jagged), size, height, shape, or other imagic symbolism. Your analysis should focus on **how** Spiegelman makes his point through image, and consider **why** he does it this way. To fill out your analysis, you might consider different types of interpretations that are possible, the dialogue or speech in the panel, and what your interpretation indicates about the rest of text, its characters, and larger themes.

You will be graded on:

1. Your thesis (mentions formal elements and makes declarative argument with stakes)
2. Use and understanding of formal elements; attention to detail
3. Thorough and detailed analysis that is NOT SUMMARY
4. Unique interpretation of panel and its effect on the text
5. Organization (topic sentences, quoting correctly, flow of whole paper)
6. Grammar, clarity, and MLA formatting