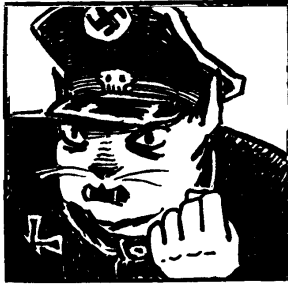


# Maus as Fable



Jew



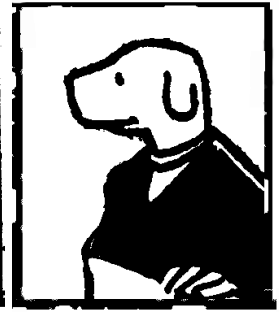
German



Franc



Pole



American

A **fable** is a moralistic tale, usually involving animals to convey its lesson.

In *Maus*, Art Spiegelman has made a very interesting choice in portraying the Jews as mice. A mouse carries many connotations, some positive and some negative. Take a moment and list the words one might associate with a mouse:

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There are two possibilities as to why Spiegelman chose mice to represent the Jewish people. Either it is because that is how people see them, or that is how the Jews see themselves. Explain which of these two possibilities you feel is more likely and why:

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Why does the experience of the Holocaust lend itself to this type of fable storytelling. Or, more simply, how could the Holocaust itself be seen as a sort of beast fable?