

**Persevering in the Darkest of Times: Wisdom from Maus by Anna Galbraith,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 6-8<sup>th</sup>**

Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman is a book that beautifully combines identity, race, bravery, strength, and most of all perseverance into one compelling tale. Maus is a story so raw and true, you feel as if the characters were right beside you as they delicately weave their story through your mind. Vladek, who is a holocaust survivor, recounts his family's heart-wrenching story to his son Artie. Vladek was treated extremely poorly and survived many unfathomable hardships during the holocaust due to his practice of Judaism. His family also endured these same hardships, but through it all Vladek inspired his family to see the good in situations and persevere. His wife Anja becomes very depressed during these difficult times and doesn't wish to live any longer. Vladek tells her "To live is easy...but you have to struggle for life! Until the last moment we must struggle together!"

For me personally, I can relate to Vladek's message very well. Even though I live in such a drastically different culture and time than the one he did, I am still able to relate to his undying message of strength and perseverance. One experience in which I have used these traits is in athletics. When I was younger, while playing soccer, I always had trouble controlling the ball and making the perfect shot on goal. I got frustrated because I just couldn't get it right at first, it would have been

easy to give up. However, I persevered. I've been improving and building on those skills ever since I was little because I kept trying.

I would recommend this touching book because many people all around the world struggle to see the good in people, issues, and situations. Whether it's something as large as a global issue, or something as trivial as learning a new skill in a sport, Vladek's careful and wise words teach a lesson that absorbs readers of all ages and backgrounds and will never be forgotten.

