
SYBOLISM OF ANIMALS IN MAUS

MOUSE: JEWS

Mice are often the prey at the bottom of the food chain, and they are survivors. They are adaptive, smart, stealthy, unclean, disease ridden, cowards, pests and is symbolic how the Nazi party saw the Jewish people at the time. They were also described to be snitches that often backstab others, which is how Hitler perceived what the Jewish population did to the German economy after the first world war and how they were desperate to sell out their fellow Jewish friends for their own benefits. The mice were originally trying to cage them and relocate them, but after that did not work, they implemented the final solution to exterminate all of the Jewish population. Mice with white fur are often perceived to be better compared to mice with darker furs as they are the lab rats seen to be much cleaner and because they are useful to humanity, they are often considered to be more appreciated than mice with furs of other colours.

CATS: NAZIS

Cats are often associated with predators, they are crafty, cunning, graceful/noble, historically worshipped in many eras during history, associated with darkness and mystery and are aggressive. They are asleep for the majority of the day, but when they are awake,

they hunt symbolic of how the German empire has been "asleep" for a large portion of history and awoke during the two world wars. They have a good sense of sight, resilient and ordered as can be seen by how the Germans documented all of the Jewish people who were sent to the concentration camps, this evidence was uncovered by the end of the war as many of the evidence could not be destroyed in time.

PIG – POLISH (NON-JEWISH)

Pigs would eat anything; they are dirty but harmless and are the odd ones out. They are not kosher, police and lazy. They are indifferent to everything and act lazy so that they do not stand out and get picked on by the cat. Because pigs do not have their sweat glands, they cannot sweat in order to release body temperature, instead they must bathe in mud to cool themselves down giving them the dirty imagery. Pigs are domesticated animals and are confined all the time symbolic of how they were placed in Ghettos at the start of the war. They are also obedient and follow orders, so they are unlikely to rebel.

DOG – AMERICANS

Dogs are friendly and loyal; they are strong and obedient. They are seen as the descendants to wolves, and even though they are trained to be obedient, they can become aggressive and dangerous when needed. They hunt in packs and are loyal to each

other, they do not betray the other members within their pack. They are free-spirited and believe in their own ideologies. They have beefs with cats hence seen by how they chose to support the British within the war and not the Germans. Dogs are known as Human's best friend, and cats not known to conform to their owners. Dogs could be used as a derogatory term in certain cultures such as China and especially female dogs are especially derogatory especially in western cultures.