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CH 202

Response Week 10

13 November 2016

### **Group 1, Question B**

Helga Shneider depicts a bleak, almost unbelievable scene in our assigned excerpts of *Let Me Go*. Her mother describes the terrors in which she took part in during the holocaust without any sense of remorse. Her mother hates Jews not for any personal reason, but because Jews were guilty of “Everything. Of Germany’s defeat in the First World War, of constant defeatism toward Germanys of international conspiracies to unleash fresh conflict—” (Schneider 155). This hatred toward Jews came from her belief in her country. It came from believing in the Führer and the propaganda he promoted. Hatred is an unnatural behavior. Some beings innately know to stay away from larger predators, and to prey on others. But this is completely separate from hatred. Hatred can cause an entire country of developed humans to attempt to exterminate Jews from the planet.

### **Group 2, Question A**

Hitler sincerely believed that Jews had tainted German culture and that the German people were responsible for not only exterminating them, but to also promote what he considered “German” art. I have put German in quotes there because much of the art which was in his country and museums before this process was undoubtedly already German art. Hitler felt that modern art had no meaning and no substance. He used art in his political agenda for many reasons. Hitler was a (somewhat unsuccessful) artist. He knew the power of propaganda, and knew that changing the definition of “German” art could help spread propaganda organically through the country. One quote that essentially sums up his speech during the opening of the Great Exhibition of German Art is “Cubism, Dadaism, Futurism, Impressionism, etc., have nothing to do with our German people. For these concepts are neither old nor modern, but are

only the artifactitious stammerings of men to whom God has denied the grace of a truly artistic talent, and in its place has awarded them the gift of jabbering or deception” (Hitler 479).

### Group 3

I knew Hitler had done some painting in his life, but I had no idea to what extent art played a role in World War II. Near the beginning of *Rape of Europa* they talk about how he was rejected from the art school he wanted to get into, while the other two Jewish men got in. One of those two men made a joke about how he would rule the country differently if he hadn’t gotten in. But the weird truth of the matter is that had Hitler just been accepted to that school, millions of lives would have been saved and WWII could have never started. In Hitler’s speech during the opening of the Great Exhibition of German Art, he says “Nevertheless, we who see in the German people the gradually crystallizing end result of this historical process, desire for ourselves an art which takes into account within itself the continually growing unification of this race pattern” (Hitler 478) as if all German people were begging for him to remove precious new art from the museums and replace it with drab, predictable “German” art.

### Group 4, Question C

“Prisoner of the Hell Planet: A Case History” is a comic within the comic *Maus*. There are many things to point out in this sub-comic. The art style is very different, more abstract than the rest of *Maus*. Also the people, instead of being drawn as different types of animals representing Jews, Germans, etc. are drawn simply as people. The story in this sub-comic is one of depression, possible insanity, and reaction to the holocaust. It represents how Artie feels about his mother, and provides a way of explaining his various emotions in a different way than the rest of the graphic novel. To me it looks more psychedelic and wavy, people’s faces and emotions are exaggerated and scary. It all *looks* very much like how I would imagine an unstable mind *feels* in that situation. For example the frame when the doctor says “SHE’S DEAD! A

SUICIDE!” (Spiegelman 101), the doctor is smiling with a gaping mouth showing his freaky teeth. This makes it feel like the doctor had planned the suicide or something of that nature.

#### Works Cited

Schneider, Helga | [https://ares.library.unr.edu/ares/ares.dll?  
SessionID=M090323997S&Action=10&Type=10&Value=64748](https://ares.library.unr.edu/ares/ares.dll?SessionID=M090323997S&Action=10&Type=10&Value=64748)  
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Spiegelman, Art | Maus: A Survivor's Tale