

## Jacob's Study Passage

### Lessons from *Maus* - May 2026

I love graphic novels. For those that don't know, a graphic novel is a fancy way of describing a comic book. The first really serious one I ever read was *Maus* by Art Spiegelman.

*Maus* is a graphic novel telling the story of Vladek Spiegelman, Art's father. The novel tells the story of Vladek's experiences of the Holocaust, and Art's experience of being raised by parents who were traumatised by these terrible events.

I found a quote saying, "To die, it's easy. But you have to struggle for life."

That stayed with me, because, sure, our goals in life are hard. Sometimes they take years. Sometimes the thought will pop up, "This is too hard, why even bother?"

But you're not going to get anything done with a mindset like that.

I'm sure Art Spiegelman would have thought of stopping. It took him 13 years to finish that book. Most people's New Year's resolutions only last a month, but he worked for 13 years, having interviews with his father and simplifying his drawings to suit a comic style, portraying the Jews as cartoon mice.

Not to mention the research he would have done. In the end, we have one of the masterpieces of the comic book medium. It was so unusual when it first came out, portraying the Holocaust in a graphic novel.

I have learned that if you really want to do something, but it's really difficult, you should go for it. It will be hard, but if you don't go for it, it will never happen.