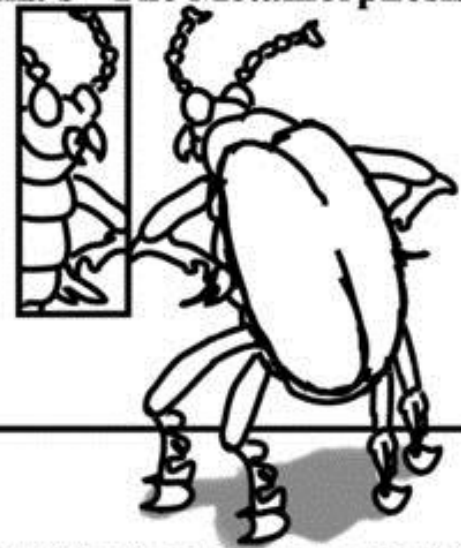


# METAMORPHOSIS

## Chapter 2

GREAT LITERATURE IN CARTOON FORM:  
Kafka's "The Metamorphosis"



"Oh, bother! I've turned into a bug. My family, which I alone support, will be so ashamed and scared of me. I guess that there is nothing left for me to do except shrivel up and die."

*Franz Kafka*

# PLEASE DO NOW

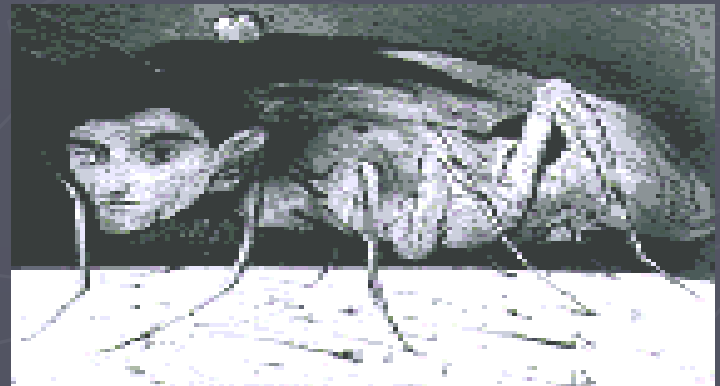
Use any three of your vocabulary words to write a summary of what we've read so far in *The Metamorphosis*.

# GREGOR "WAKES" UP

- ▶ Still transformed?
- ▶ Bowl of fresh milk
  - ▶ He normally enjoys now he rejects
  - ▶ What does he reject?
- ▶ "What a quiet life the family has been leading."
  - ▶ What do the other family members do?
  - ▶ What was Gregor's former occupation?

# BECOMING BUG-LIKE

- ▶ Hides under the couch – why?
- ▶ Grete
  - Sees him and flees “God he had to be somewhere.”
  - Returns— “on tiptoe...as if he were seriously ill.”
  - Cleans up uneaten food
    - ▶ But not with bare hands



# BUG TRANSFORMATION

- ▶ Returns with an assortment of food
  - What type of food
  - What does this confirm?
- ▶ Newspaper –the written word – how has been used thus far?



# BUG TRANSFORMATION

- ▶ “Have I become less sensitive?”
  - He no longer felt any handicap
  - Why is this significant?
  - Multiple meanings
- ▶ “for, in fact, from day to day, he saw things...less and less distinctly.”

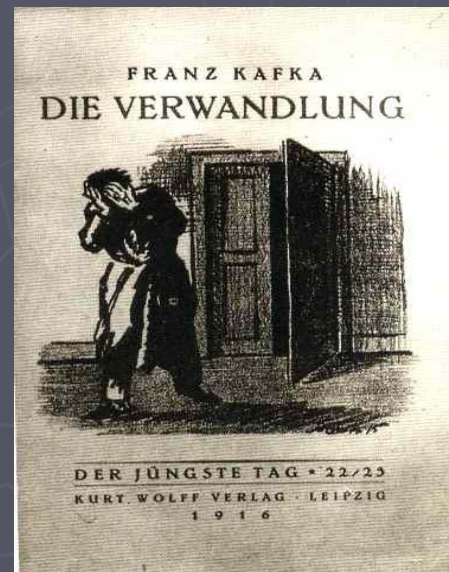
# FAMILY FINANCES

- “Gregor’s sole concern had been to do everything in his power to make the family forget as quickly as possible the business disaster which had plunged everyone into a state of despair.”

–What does Gregor learn?

# THE FATHER

- ▶ Old but healthy
- ▶ Saved money from the business “but the money to live on would have to be earned.”
- ▶ “what is he carrying on about in there now?”
  - Treatment of Gregor?





# THE SISTER

- ▶ What was her role before the transformation?
- ▶ What is her role now?
- ▶ What does she do for Gregor?
- ▶ Look more closely at HOW she does this for Gregor.
  - Gregor is invisible and untouchable

# THE MOTHER

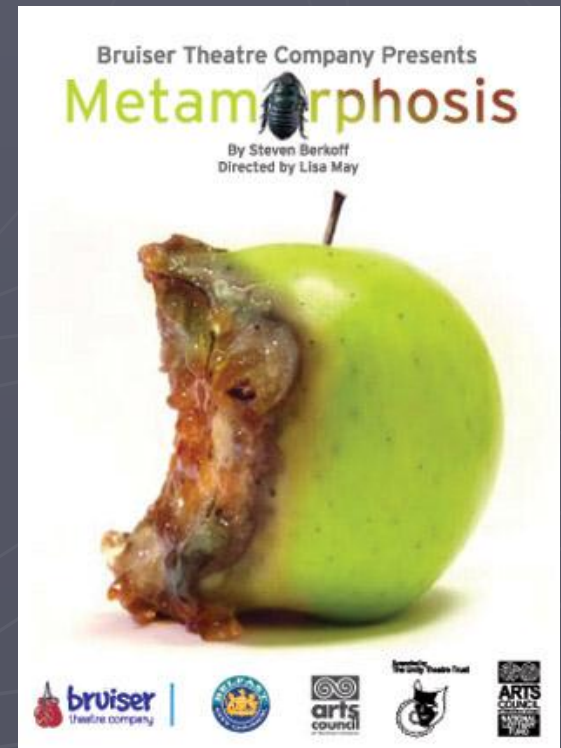
- ▶ Initial reaction to sickness
- ▶ Initial reaction to metamorphosis
- ▶ How long does it take the mother to see her changed son?
  - “Let me go to Gregor, he is my unfortunate boy!”
    - ▶ How does Gregor feel about his situation?
- ▶ Reaction to his state of being?

# GREGOR AS THE DUNG BEETLE

- ▶ What does he do to entertain himself?
- ▶ How does he feel about his transformation (prior to his mother's comments)?
- ▶ After his mother's comments (doesn't it look like, by moving his furniture, ...we have given up?"
  - The picture on the wall

# ENDING OF CHAPTER 2

- ▶ Grete's treatment
- ▶ Father's reaction and change in appearance
- ▶ The apples
- ▶ Gregor's health
- ▶ Share homework responses



# FRANZ KAFKA AND "ISMS"






# EXPRESSIONISM

- ▶ Early 19<sup>th</sup> century movement - Germany
- ▶ Based on the belief that inner reality, or a person's thoughts and feelings, were more important than the "objective" reality outside the person.
- ▶ The response of an individual is more important than the object that causes the response.

# SURREALISM

- Super realism
- France – early 1900s
- Reaction to realism
- Stressed power of imagination and dreams over conscious control





The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.

Albert CAMUS

# EXISTENTIALISM

- ▶ France and Germany – early 1800s
- ▶ People are created by the experiences they undergo.
- ▶ It is action and making choices that give life meaning.
- ▶ Many did not believe in God, but felt that human beings were free to make own moral choices in life.



# FREUDIANISM

- Based on ideas of Sigmund Freud
- Believed every human action is influenced by the unconscious mind
- Early experiences (relationship with father) have a profound effect on development of unconscious

