

TH



Franz Kafka

PL

3-2-1 Review of Part One

- **3** important ideas/events
- **2** important quotes
- **1** question you have after reading

THE STRANGE TALE BEGINS...

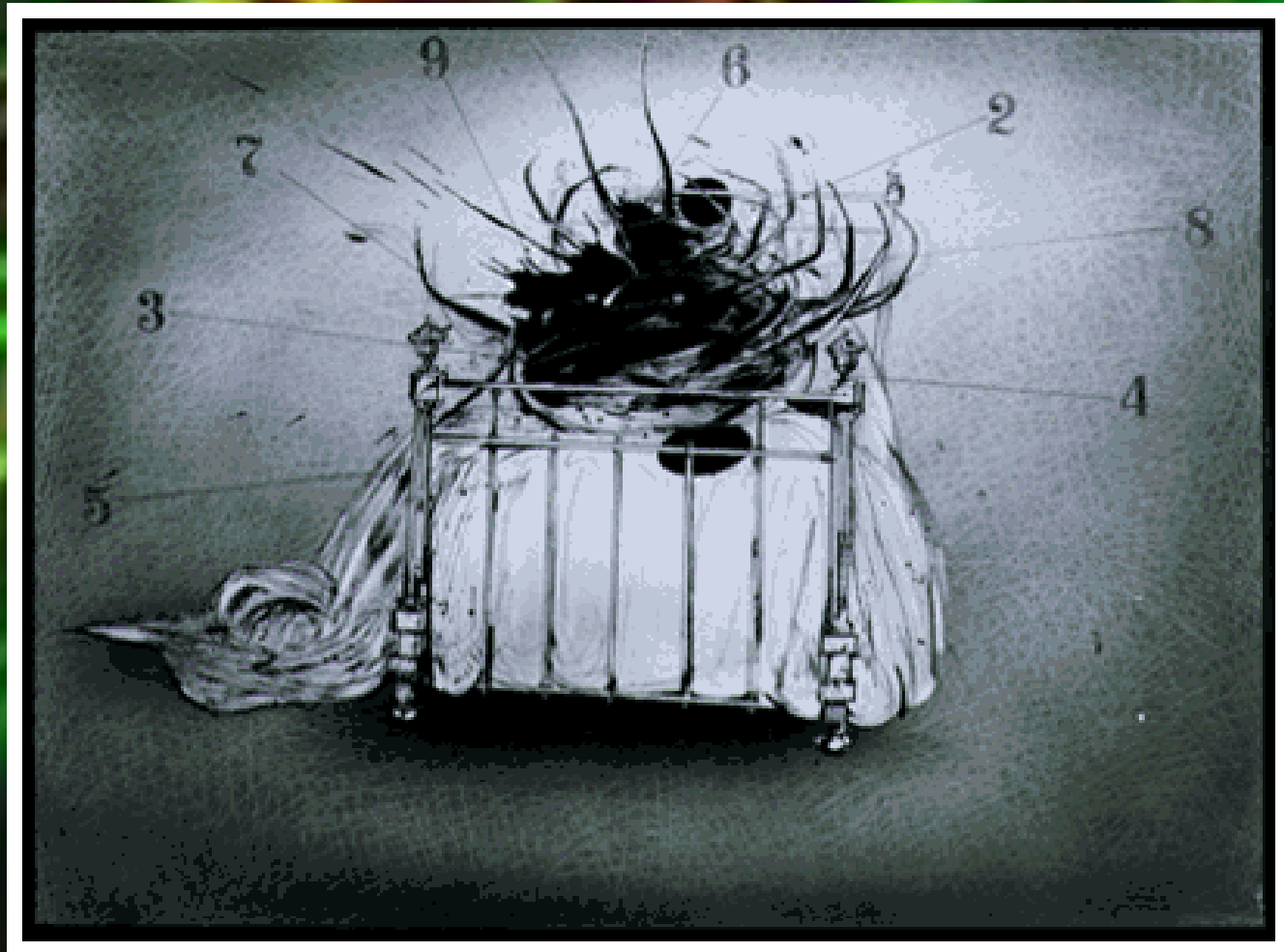
(WITH ART BY LUIS SCAFATI)



➤ The metamorphosis occurs in the early morning hours during the short period of sleep and one's daily mundane routine. The climax of the novella occurs in the first sentence of the story:

“When Gregor Samsa awoke from troubled dreams one morning, he found that he had been transformed in his bed into an enormous bug.”

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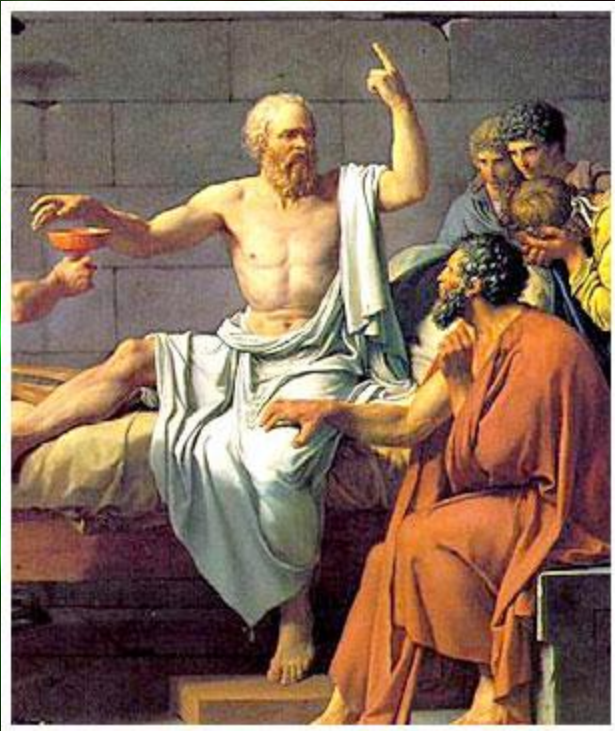
“He lay on his back, which was hard as armor, and, when he lifted his head a little, he saw his belly—rounded, brown...His numerous legs, pitifully thin in comparison to the rest of his girth, flickered helplessly before his eyes.”



“Gregor shoved himself slowly to the door, using the chair; once there, he let it go and threw himself against the door, holding himself upright against it—the balls of his little feet contained some sticky substance—and rested there from his exertions...he prepared to turn the key in the lock with his mouth...”



“The life which is unexamined is not worth living.” Socrates

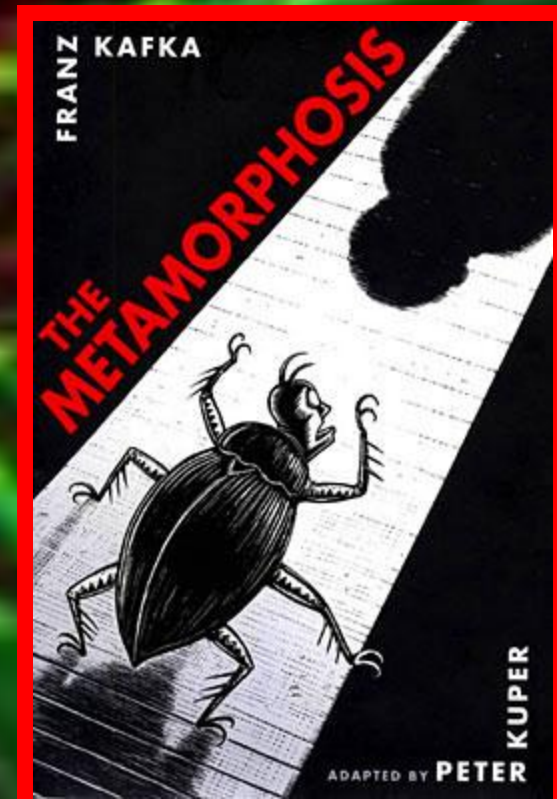
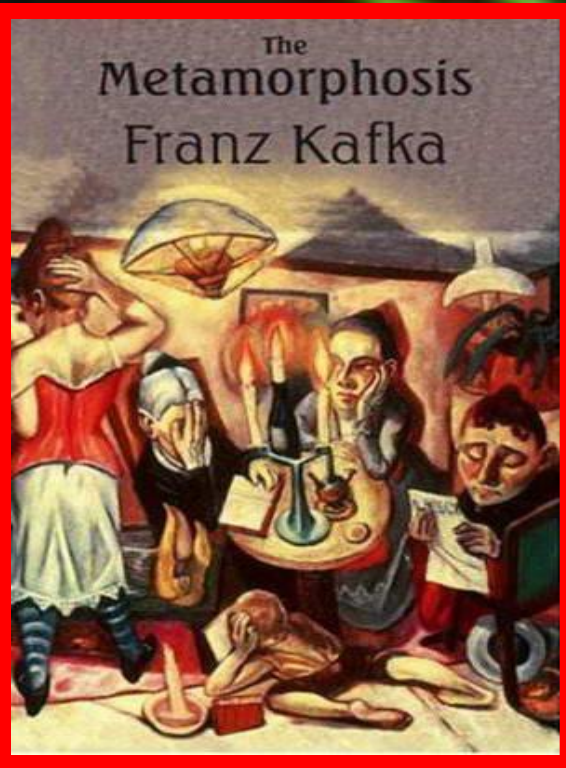


**Socrates (469 - 399 B.C.)
by Anthony Frudakis
Athens Square Park, New York**

Did Gregor Samsa
examine his life?



- ❖ Franz Kafka depicts the separation and alienation of modern man.
- ❖ Kafka delineates a distorted world—one of anxiety and bitterness.
- ❖ This disturbing world is reflected in the various novel covers shown below.



WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THIS DISTURBING NOVELLA ADDRESS?

- Is this only a psychological transformation of the mind?
- Is this an actual physical transformation?
- Is this an inner struggle that has manifested itself in both a physical and psychological change?



- Gregor vacillates between two spheres: rationality and irrationality.
- Why does Gregor appear to take the transformation with equanimity?
- How would you react if you could not awaken from a nightmare?
- When we “transform,” do we lose our original identity?
- In his morphing, what has Gregor escaped from?
- Is the beetle Gregor’s innermost self? Is it time for this self to confront Gregor?
- Is the “metamorphosis” a rejection of all responsibility?
- Is this a story of anxiety?
- Is this story humorously disturbing?
- How does guilt permeate the novella?
- Is it pointless to attempt to analyze this novella?

GROTESQUE OR BLACK HUMOR

- Characterized by the ludicrous or the incongruous
- Characterized by distortion and is bizarre and outlandish
- Characterized by absurdity
- An aspect of the Theatre of the Absurd
- Uses sardonically humorous effects derived from mordant wit or grotesque situations that deal with anxiety, suffering or death
- Tone is often one of resignation, anger or bitterness.



FRANZ KAFKA

- 1883 – 1924
- Born in Prague
- German, Czech and Jewish heritage
- Father – Hermann Kafka
- Mother – Julie Lowy
- Eldest of six children
- Kafka dies of tuberculosis.
- His literary works are considered some of the finest of the 20th century.

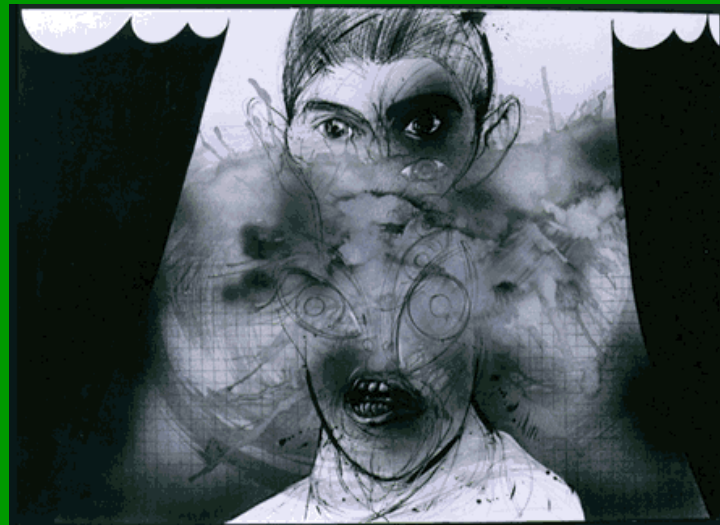


Yes, Kafka was afraid of his father. In a letter of almost 100 pages, Kafka delineates the following points; however, his father never read the letter.

- “{You raised me} with vigor, noise and a hot temper.”
- “As a father you have been too strong for me—and for that I was much too weak.”
- “This feeling of being nothing that often dominates me comes largely from your influence.”
- “You really only encourage me in anything when you yourself are involved in it.”
- “I was weighed down by your mere physical presence...I was skinny, weakly, slight; you strong, tall, broad...I felt a miserable specimen.”



“I am afraid of you.”



- “From your armchair you ruled the world”
- “Your opinion was correct, every other was mad”
- “For me you took on the enigmatic quality that all tyrants have whose rights are based on their person and not on reason.”
- “What was always incomprehensible to me was your total lack of feeling for the suffering and shame you could inflict on me with your words and judgments.”
- “...it is fundamentally impossible for you to talk calmly about a subject you don't approve of or even one that was not suggested by you; your imperious temperament does not permit it.”
- “I became completely dumb, cringed away from you, hid from you...”
- “Your extremely effective rhetorical methods...were abuse, threats, irony, spiteful laughter and self-pity.”
- “You have always reproached me (either alone or in front of others since you have no feeling for the humiliation of the latter, and your children's affairs were always public).”

- “Between us there was no real struggle; I was soon finished off; what remained was flight, embitterment, melancholy, and inner struggle.”
- “{You} turned in me to mistrust of myself and perpetual anxiety about everything else.”
- “You struck closer to home with your aversion to my writing.”
- “Your method of upbringing {instilled in me} weakness, the lack of self-confidence, the sense of guilt...”
- “It is the general pressure of anxiety, of weakness, of self-contempt.”
- “In my writing I have made some attempts at independence, attempts at escape—I must choose the nothing.”
- “And there is the combat of vermin, which not only sting but suck your blood in order to sustain their own life...and that’s what you are.”

DO YOU NOTE ANY PARALLELS BETWEEN THESE QUOTES AND GREGOR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER?



IS GREGOR A
BEETLE?

IS GREGOR
EXPERIENCING A
MENTAL
BREAKDOWN?



IS GREGOR CHANGING ONE
IDENTITY FOR ANOTHER?





- Part Two of *The Metamorphosis* and guided reading questions – due Friday, March 7
- Vocabulary Assignment – due Friday, March 7
- Part Three of *The Metamorphosis* and guided reading questions – due Tuesday, March 11
- *The Metamorphosis* Vocabulary Quiz –Monday, March 10
- Unit Test – Thursday, March 13th
- Rootwords: “solv-, solut-“ and “spect”

PL

Discuss the differences in Gregor and his family following his metamorphosis. Compare the physical changes with the emotional changes.

EVALUATING THE IMAGE OF THE MONSTROUS VERMIN AS AN OUTWARD MANIFESTATION OF GREGOR'S INTERNAL STATE

- Word choices associated with Gregor's character following his metamorphosis

IMAGE OF THE VERMIN

- Words with positive and negative connotations
 - Self-control
 - -Personal Reaction
- Why a “monstrous vermin”?

EXAMINING THE DEMANDS PLACED UPON THE WORKER IN A CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY

- Gregor's responsibilities as an employee in his firm.
 - Samsa's family's expectations with regard to Gregor's work ethic and his role within the family
- The head clerk's description of Gregor's duties within his firm

CONFLICT BETWEEN GREGOR AS AN EMPLOYEE UPWARD SOCIAL MOBILITY

- Longer stay than intended
 - Gregor's work ethic
- Vermin and role of employee connection
 - Gregor's value
 - Parent's motives
 - Consequences

EXAMINING THE UNEXAMINED HUMAN CONDITION – GREGOR 'S LIFESTYLE

- His room
 - His job/reasons for working
- His relationship with family, office manager, other employees
- Ability to control his new body
 - Social life

EXAMINING THE UNEXAMINED HUMAN CONDITION – GREGOR 'S LIFESTYLE

- His sense of reality/ sense of denial
- His voice (to himself/family/outside)
- His view outside of his window
- Photographs of him in family home
- Sound of silence vs. ending actions

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GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

- Needs to be a personal reflection type of entry.
- Each entry must follow specific directions given.
- Each entry should be ½ page in length.
- Entries will be discussed in class; therefore, **no entries will be accepted late.**
- **NO PLOT SUMMARY WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

Metaphorically speaking, briefly discuss how it is possible for a man to become a bug. Consider the themes of the story.

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

Discuss the significance of the picture of the woman hanging on Gregor's wall. What does this picture and Gregor's attitude towards it tell us about him as a person (consider the meaning of his name).

Gregor = vigilant (see/watch) Samsa = I am alone

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

By the end of section I, what has the family done to Gregor?

EXPRESSIONISM



Edward Munch
The Scream

- Early 19th century movement based on the belief that inner reality, or a person's thoughts and feelings, are more important than the object or situation that causes the response
- Expressed through symbolic characters, exaggeration, distortion, nightmarish imagery and fantasy
- Grew out of paintings of Vincent van Gogh

SURREALISM



The Persistence of Memory
Salvador Dali

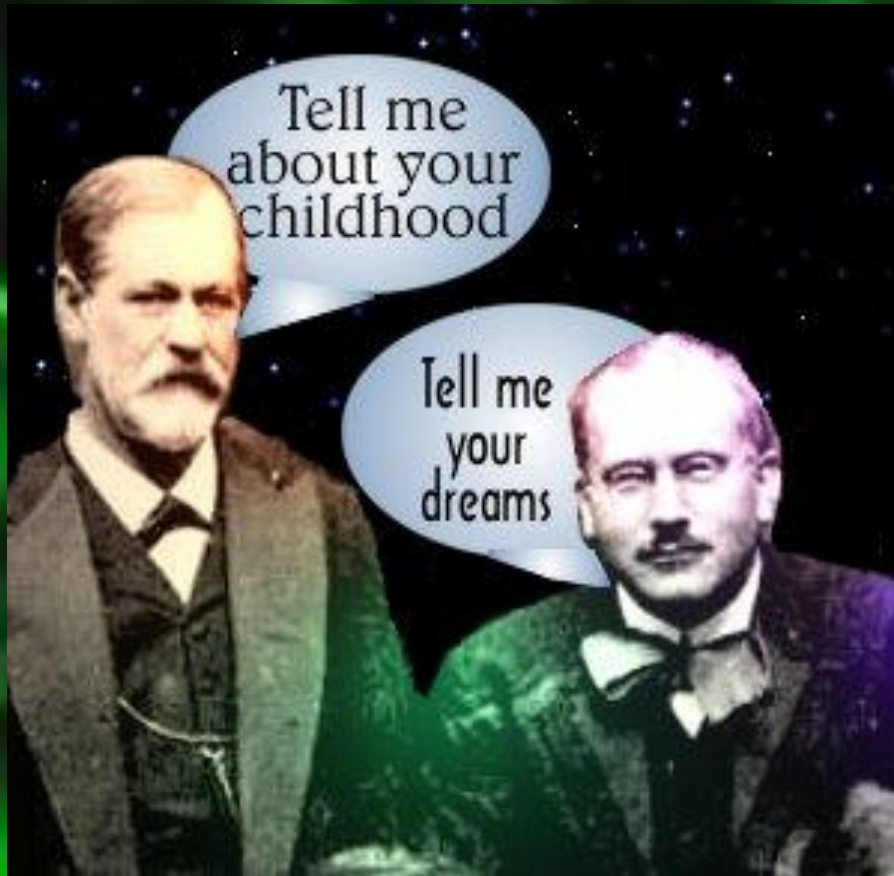
- “Super realism” developed in France in the early 1900s as a reaction to realism.
- It stressed the power of the imagination and dreams over conscious control.
- Surrealist painters like Salvador Dali depicted objects as they would never appear in reality, such as his famous drooping watches.

EXISTENTIALISM



- People are created by the experiences they undergo.
- It is action and making choices that give life meaning.
- Human beings are free to make their own choices in life.
- A philosophical, religious, and artistic movement that dates to the early 1800s

FREUDIANISM



Sigmund Freud and
Carl Jung

- A theory of psychology
- Freud believed that every human action is influenced by the unconscious mind
- Early experiences, such as one's relationship with one's father, have a profound effect on the development of the unconscious.
- Kafka experienced complex relations with his own father.