

The Metamorphosis

Reading and Writing Outline (may change at teacher's discretion)

I will occasionally add extra assignments AND quizzes.

Literary Response Journal

To prepare for class discussion, please respond to the question provided below. Each entry must be dated and a minimum of two paragraphs of 5-6 sentences. Feel free to expand your answer to include interesting observations about the text. Each entry is worth 5 points and will be evaluated on depth of thought and writing.

If you miss class, you are responsible for completing each journal question on your own.

Journals must be:

In a designated spiral bound notebook.

Each entry must be dated.

Demonstrate thoughts, reaction and understanding of reading.

February 22/25: Introduction Franz Kafka and Kafkaesque. Discuss and define existentialism. Symbolism often appears in modern literature as a name, event, action, or object that embodies more than its literal, concrete meaning. Like many of Kafka's works, *Metamorphosis* is rich in its symbolism. Symbolism allows the reader to penetrate the complexity and mystery of a work of art with greater understanding and insight. Discuss why authors use symbols, what they convey and if they are powerful literary devices.

Write an allegory in which a symbol is used to represent something big.

Assignments:

- Read Chapter 1
- Journal Question: Pay close attention to Gregor's transformation to a large insect. What might this represent? Discuss your ideas, even the crazy ones.

February 26/27: Discuss Ch. 1. Work on discussion questions. From Kafka's description, draw a picture of Gregor Samsa as a bug. Why did Kafka choose a giant beetle as the creature Gregor changed in to?

Assignment:

- Read Chapter 2.
- Journal Question: How has the balance of power changed in the Samsa household by the end of Ch. 2? What are the possible explanations for it? Do people really change?

February 28/1: Discuss Ch. 2. Discuss the author's use of structure, diction, point of view and tone.

Assignment:

- Read Ch. 3.
- Journal Question: Discuss the author's use of humor. What parts in the story are humorous?

March 4/5: Discuss Ch. 3. In an in-class essay, contrast the family circumstances at the end of the story with them at the beginning of the story and account for the difference. Read and discuss the documents on pages 103-109.

Assignment:

- Read p.164-180

March 6/7: Discuss criticisms. Final project – in-class writing.