

The Metamorphosis

1. How does the opening of the story establish the tone? What is Gregor's reaction to his change?
 2. Citing specific examples, describe the relationship of Gregor to his family generally and to each member specifically.
 3. Note the frequency of the mention of doors. Why does Kafka use doors as he does?
 4. What is the role of metamorphosis or transformation in nature? Does this apply to Kafka's story? Why or why not?
 5. What does it mean to be a parasite? Are there examples of parasites in the first section?
 6. What kind of creature has Gregor become? What evidence is there for your response?
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7. How many times during the first section does Gregor in his new condition experience physical pain? What parts of him are injured? What is his reaction to the pain?
8. In this first section Kafka paints a picture of Gregor's life both domestically (in the home) and occupationally. How are these parts of Gregor's world connected?
9. Symbols: for each of the following, explain its function in the story thus far.
- a. a newspaper
 - b. a cane
 - c. the picture of Gregor
 - d. the picture on Gregor's bedroom wall