

The that gregor has
for his family
metamorphosis of his
drastic physical
changes....



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The Dream that Gregor has is the background upon which the story is told therefore bringing to attention the use of a dream in Franz Kafka's story Metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is thought to occur in insects and it signifies their growth from one stage to the next which necessitates that the insect changes in physical form through the stages it goes through until it reaches maturity. Metamorphosis in the context of Franz Kafka, illustrates the transformation of the Main character Gregor from a normal human being into a bug (Kafka 5). That is the point which Gregor's misfortunes begin. But in the long run the transformation that is seen is that of the whole family and not just Gregor. They are able to go out and work and even afford to go for a trip in the countryside and eventually they are able to sell the apartment they used together with Gregor, something that had not happened before.

This can be seen as the major transformation and metamorphosis in the story. By using Gregor, Kafka symbolizes the whole family in general and the changes that take place therein upon Gregor's metamorphosis. Gregor is portrayed as a responsible young man who works to take care of his family when his father loses his grip on his business and therefore Gregor has to work to settle what his father owes his boss.

He led a life of a traveling salesman, working long hours, which didn't permit to him living his own "life". He reflects his own life as "the plague of traveling: the anxieties of changing trains, the irregular, inferior meals, the ever changing faces, never to be seen again, people with whom one has no chance to be friendly" (Kafka 13). Working to pay off his family's debt, Gregor never left anytime for himself. Kafka himself counterparts this sentiment in a

quotetaken from his diaries; “ no matter how hard you work that work stilldoesn’t entitle you to loving concern for people.

Instead you’re alone, a totalstranger, a mere object of curiosity” (Pawel 167). So in-depth with hiswork, Gregor becomes unknown to himself and to life. In Gregor’s life he had noroom for anyone other than his family which in the end left him without love orcaring or any other kind of companionship. He worked so industriously for hisfamily that this became his only goal in life. They became so dependent onGregor to support them but did nothing for him in return. Up until now Gregorwas living a life of obligations, he came home every night to an empty hotelroom to ensure his family was taken care of. His parents and “ theirdominance thus extends to the system which deprives him of creative life andmarried love” (Eggenschwiler 54). Apparent to everyone, Gregor was nolonger thought of a member of the family but nothing more than a “ supportsystem.

” The fact of the matter become, “ everyone had grown accustomedto it, his family as much as himself; they took the money gratefully, he gave itwillingly but the act was accompanied by no remarkable effusiveness” (Kafka48). Gregor still “ believed he had to provide his family with a pleasant, contented, secure life”(Emrich 149). Before the metamorphosis, Gregor’sexistence was much like it was after it. After being transformed into acockroach Gregor lived in isolation with his family.

In a “ dark bedroom, inthe jumble of discarded furniture and filth, monstrous vermin, a grotesque, hidden part of the family”(Eggenschwiler 211). Gregor’s sister was the onlyone who helped poor Gregor, in his time of

transformation. She was frightened but managed to put her fears aside, she even got angry with others for trying to help. Upon his sister taking care of him, the rest of Gregor's family would not associate with him.

“ No one attempted to understand him, no one, not even his sister, imagined that she could understand him” (Kafka 45). Before long, Gregor noticed that through his metamorphosis he had not lost nor gained anything. “ The actual metamorphosis symbolizes a rebellion assertion of unconscious desires and energies” (Eggenschwiler 203). After the metamorphosis, Gregor's family undergoes some pretty harsh changes.

For after the change, Gregor would not be able to support his family's lazy asses. He went to his boss and begged him to “ please sir, spare my parent” (Kafka 24). Strangely, after what his family put him through he still looked vigorously for a way to help his parents, “ his duty was to remain docile and to try to make things bearable for his family” (Kafka 42). As time passes, Gregor realizes that his family doesn't need his help and support and that he is nothing more than a burden to them.

The family never realized the strain that the transformation had put Gregor through, and now they have cut off relations instead of supporting Gregor they desert him. Even his sister had gotten to the point of no longer feeding or cleaning Gregor's room, she might stop in and give him a piece of bread but not stay and talk to him. The thing that really got to Gregor is the memories of all the things