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Ans to the qus No-1

Postmodernism is a philosophical, cultural and artistic movement that emerged at the end of the 20th century, as a reaction to the intellectual and philosophical ideas of the Enlightenment period and the rest of the modern period. It was a movement that succeeded modernism, hence the origin of its name.

Postmodern literature is a form of literature that is characterized

by the use of metafiction, unreliable narration, self-reflexivity, intertextuality and which often thematizes both historical and political issues. Postmodern literature is a form of literature which is marked, both stylistically and ideologically, by a reliance on such literary conventions as fragmentation, paradox, unreliable narrators, often unrealistic and downright impossible plots, games, parody, dark humor and authorial self-reference. Postmodern authors

tend to reject outright meanings in their novels, stories and poems and instead, highlight and celebrate the possibility of multiple meanings or a complete lack of meaning, within a single literary work.

Many critics and scholars find it best to define postmodern literature against the popular literary style that came before it, modernism. In many ways, postmodern literary styles and ideas serve to dispute, reverse, mock and reject the principles of modernist literature.

The twentieth century has been marked as a time of great suffering and advancement in human history. One product of this dynamic time is the theory of postmodernism.

Postmodernism happened in America after people started to realize that history was cruel and that people were not really progressing much. This directly discredited the pre-existing theory of modernism which took its ideology from the three pillars, progress, hierarchy of cultures, universals.

In the novel *The Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka uses the dramatic transformation of his character, Gregor, to mock the societal construct of the twentieth century. This very act of mockery goes against the three pillars of modernism, making this a postmodern work of literature. The whole tone of the story is revealed in the very first sentence of the book. It reveals Gregor turning into this hideous vermin in such

a nonchalant way that automatically the reader is thrown into absurd reality. As the reader tries to find a meaning, the final effect of the story is complete bewilderment. However, under a postmodern perspective, this very idea of meaninglessness starts to have meaning. It is clear from McEvilley's study of history that there was a rise of pessimism in the wake of the tragedies of the twentieth century. Therefore, the very fact that

the story is absurd is an attack to the modernist idea of progress because the whole story of Gregor's metamorphosis has no fairytale conclusion.

Instead, the reader is left in complete confusion with a deceptive happy ending. ~~There~~ Throughout the whole story, Kafka repeatedly mocks the societal hierarchy and norms to reveal the irrationality of modernist ideology. In the beginning, Gregor, not his father is the main source of income for the family.