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Mid Assessment

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Ans to the Q no 2

Family issues in the novella "Metamorphosis"

Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* explores the degradation and transformative power of alienation. As its protagonist, Gregor Samsa, experiences personal alienation from the people he has cared for and served, he is transformed, losing himself altogether. Simultaneously, in ironic contrast to his experience, his transformation enables those around him to grow, their lives are renewed at the cost of his own.

In the novella's inciting incident, Gregor, a travelling salesman, wakes to find himself transformed into an insect.

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The narrator recounts this bizarre change in a straight forward manner, at once setting the story's absurdist tone and suggesting a universe that lacks order and justice. Gregor's imprisoning transformation symbolic of the conditions of his existence separates him physically and emotionally from his family, his coworkers and humanity in general. This theme concerning the effects of alienation is prevalent. Gregor's metamorphosis into an insect reflects the alienation he experienced in life. Even before his transformation, he had disliked his job and office manager had few

Friends, spent evenings alone reading the paper of train schedules and supported his family in an emotionally detached way.

Gregor struggles to reconcile his growing awareness of his condition with what he had believed his condition to be forming his internal conflict and the central conflict of the story. Despite his hideous appearance Gregor retains his inner life and strives to reconcile his humanity with the reality symbolized by his physical state. He does not appear to be fazed by his new found body, that which is essential about him remains unchanged. Instead,

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he focuses on day-to-day concerns that define him. He worries about losing his job and about his family's financial situation. His income supports his parents and sister, Grete, and he works to pay off his unmotivated father's debts. His father remains unnamed throughout the story, underscoring his estrangement from Gregor a biographical echo of Kafka's relationship with his own father.

events in the rising action emphasize Gregor's tragic awareness of his alienation, yet they also reveal that his family has begun its own transformation, gaining independence to grow

Once Gregor manages to open the door to his bedroom, his family and the office manager are horrified by his appearance foreshadowing the fact that Gregor's isolation will become even more pronounced.

However, Grete - the only other named character in the story - engages with him, discovering that he prefers to eat moldy scraps since he has lost his taste for milk.

As events unfold, Katka emphasizes the growth of the family as Gregor declines. Gregor spends most of his time listening to his family, separated by the door and discovers that he enjoys climbing around his room.

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His mother and sister, in response, remove the furniture. so he has more physical space although he remains emotionally disturbed.

In a pivotal scene, Gregor clings to a picture of a woman in fur hanging on the wall - he does not want his association with the human world and his past to be removed. Gregor's mother, newly clean and healthy since becoming a bank attendant, misunderstands. He acts, throwing fruit at Gregor, treating him like a wild animal and the apple that lodges in Gregor's back eventually ends his life. Even Grete's initial concerns and gestures toward Gregor

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source through the rising action as he becomes burdensome, suggesting her own growing independence.

At the story's climax, Gregor's struggle ends, concluding his tragic life. The life of his family, however, is on its way to renewal. Gregor has become further isolated. His sisters' ~~sm~~ sympathy for him has waned. She has delegated responsibility for his care to the cleaning lady. The family has relegated Gregor to his cluttered room, for extra money they have taken in three boarders who value order and cleanliness.

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After Gregor's transformation, he becomes entirely reliant on his family, in the way that they, before his transformation, relied on his wages. His feelings of duty and responsibility towards his family concern him much more than his bizarre physical predicament. Yet his sister Grete, mother and father are unable to think of him or treat him in the same way as before. Much of their change in attitude is due to their profound interest in conforming to the norm of

The society around them. Grete is the most thoughtful, putting aside her preconceptions to bring him the rotten food he likes.

But though Gregor imagines quading the family, he's unable to reply her help.

When he becomes a cockroach, his relationship with his family becomes unequal, about dependence rather than cooperation. His lack of freedom to act as well as family's growing frustrations toward him, are factors that play into his listlessness and eventual death.

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Gregor's father may bear the major responsibility for his death because of injuring him with the apple, but no one in the family is blameless. At the story's end, Grete the mother and father feel happier and freer once they no longer have to worry about Gregor.

In the word of story, even close family bonds can't triumph over the unequal relationship caused by having a cockroach as a son.

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