

ENGL 7940 Lesson Plan for Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*

Maggie Bell

Objectives: For students to understand the context of the novella in the Modernist movement and understand the deeper symbolism occurring in the story.

- Review and reinforce **narrative situation** terminology as needed
- Review and reinforce **qualities of Modernism** as needed
- Explore *The Metamorphosis* as **symbolic** and get comfortable playing with **possible interpretations** and elements of **social commentary**
- Explore the text for characters and transformations **outside of just Gregor**
- Practice **using close reading** to uncover new layers of meaning and make connections within the text

Materials Needed:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Index Cards
- Textbook copy of the novella

Work Completed Before Class:

- On Wednesday, students completed a quick response prompt asking them to interpret possible metaphors that Gregor's metamorphosis could represent.
- Completed the reading of the novella

Step-by-Step Plan: 50 mins of total class time

- (5 mins) Warm-Up Question (to be filled out on student's daily index card): If you were to wake up as a bug, who would notice?
  - Think about the various communities to which you belong. Who would notice? Would you view it as a break or a burden? What would be the worst bug for you to turn into?
- (Total of 15 minutes – 2 min for individual, 6 for group, 7 for presenting to class) Think-Pair-Share Activity
  - 3 Questions for 3 different groups to work on simultaneously:
    - 1. Does Gregor have a healthy work environment or work-life balance? What evidence do we have in the text for your perspective
    - 2. How do Gregor's family members begin to make money after his transformation? How do they feel about having to work?
    - 3. How is Gregor's metamorphosis positive for him? How is it negative? What examples do we see in the text?
- (5 mins) Recap from Wednesday's Assignment and Group Discussion
  - What metaphors might the bug represent? If the bug is the source domain, what are the target domains and entailments?
- (5 mins) Close Reading Practice of Passage

- Show passage on PowerPoint and have students close read the passage to determine how Grete is having a transformation of her own.
  - Look up words in the OED
  - Discuss focalization
  - Discuss narration patterns
- (5 min) Group Work Question
  - Have each group take one of the three sections of the novella and analyze how it opens and how it closes.
  - Trace similarities in the opening and closing for deeper meaning.
- (10 min) Modernist Theme Exploration and Mapping
  - Lecture briefly on the modernist themes we've observed from other texts so far.
  - Have students refer to the shared class GoogleDoc, which has a table mapping literary movement characteristics to compare and contrast them.
    - Highlight similar themes across movements.
    - Evaluate how Modernism treats themes from other movements.
- (5 min) Wrap-up and class reminders.
  - Have students write how they contributed to class on their index card for engagement grade.
  - Remind students about upcoming deadlines and readings.

#### Account of the Rationale:

My rationale for this lesson plan was to reinforce the major ideas from lecture this week that will appear again on the final exam and future essays. I want to encourage deeper thinking about the text rather than the plot elements and surface-level insights. I incorporated frequent group work so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute.