“The Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka
Guided Reading Questions

Instructions: For each day's reading, select FOUR questions to respond to on a separate sheet of paper. Please list the question number with your response.

Responses should be at least 2-3 complete sentences--make sure they are thoughtful!

Day One:

1. Lines 1–8: What does Kafka reveal about the main character in the first paragraph? What expectations does this set for readers?
2. Lines 10–11: Authors often include multiple themes in a literary work. What theme might be suggested by the evidence in these lines?
3. Lines 28–40: One of Kafka’s themes is isolation. What details in these lines support this theme?
4. Lines 20–48: How does Gregor initially react to his situation? What can you infer about his character and feelings based on lines 29–48?
5. Lines 41–53: What motivates Gregor to keep his job? What does this reveal about his values and character?
6. Lines 57–73: How does Kafka use pacing to create a sense of panic?

Day Two:

7. Lines 100–115: What does the father do when Gregor oversleeps? What words does Kafka use to suggest the way the father feels? What do these words help you understand about Gregor’s relationship with his family?
8. Lines 112–115: What inference can you make about the theme based on Gregor’s actions? What text evidence supports your inference?
9. Lines 121–135: What can you infer about Gregor based on lines 121–126? What can you infer about his character when he tries to get out of bed?
10. Lines 149–154: What details does Kafka include to build tension?
11. Lines 156–158: What is the tone of the story? Which phrases helped you determine the tone? How does the tone of the narrative reflect the theme?
12. Lines 172–175: What inference can you make about Gregor’s employer? What evidence supports your inference?
13. Lines 199–220: What does nonsensical in line 204 mean? What is the effect when Kafka pairs nonsensical with hope? Which words in lines 206–220 have negative and positive connotations? How does Kafka use words with traditionally positive connotations to express negative thoughts? What is the effect?

Day Three:

14. Lines 226–235: Explain whether Gregor thinks his situation is unique to him. Given the strangeness of the situation, what can you infer about Gregor and the type of person he is?
15. Lines 226–235: What can you infer about the relationship between Gregor and his sister?
16. Lines 241–248: Which details in these lines reinforce the theme?
17. Lines 256–264: Explain what Kafka is revealing to readers about society’s opinion of workers. How do these revelations help develop the theme?
18. Lines 304–321: Explain the feeling Gregor’s dialogue evokes. What words or techniques does Kafka use to create this feeling?
19. Lines 315–321: What inference can you make about the reason Gregor is so worried? What text evidence supports your inference?
20. Lines 357–373: Which details shape and refine the story’s theme?
21. Lines 385–391: What have you learned about Gregor’s personality? What can you infer about Gregor after reading these lines?
22. Lines 403–408: What inferences can you make about the way the chief clerk, his mother, and his father react after seeing Gregor? Why do you think each character acts this way? How might their feelings and interactions...
with Gregor advance the plot?