Metamorphosis: Book Review

First Name, Last Name

Institution

Date

1. Gregor is exhausted by the demanding nature of his profession. He doesn’t enjoy his work; this is evident in his thoughts one morning. He thinks to himself that he never has enough time to build relationships or have a regular meal. In his thoughts, he plans to leave his work once he has earned enough money to pay off his parent’s debt (Page 15-17)
2. Gregor is the sole provider for his family’s needs. This responsibility weighing on his shoulders follows the deteriorating health of his elderly parents; his mother has asthma while his father is aging and has become clumsy. Although he has a sibling (a sister), she is too young to unburden him with some of these responsibilities. This role is about to change when Gregor metamorphosed. He will no longer be the breadwinner and his father, mother and sister will be forced to find work to become independent.
3. Before the metamorphosis, Gregor felt dehumanized because of the unappreciation he received from his family. He felt that his family viewed him more like a money-making tool rather than a beloved son or brother. He not only paid the bills but also the debts that his parents owed his employer.
4. I agree with the critics. The loss of humanity of the protagonist in Metamorphosis goes beyond the changes in his physical features to those of an insect. His changes are also psychological. In his mind, Gregor is also turning into a monstrous insect. One can empathize with how Gregor must have felt following the treatment he received from his family. These mental changes are also what influence him to crawl under the couch. Like an insect, he feels insecure by being exposed. Therefore, the only logical thing for him to do is crawl under furniture and cover himself. Other ways that he adjusts to his current state is by climbing on the walls and the ceiling of his house.
5. In part 2, Gregor’s room is stripped of furniture so that Gregor might have more space to climb up and across the walls and the ceiling. He first responds by hiding, then he panics and climbs the wall to cover a wall picture so that his sister doesn’t take it away. After Grete yells to him, Gregor responds by running away to the living room. Gregor’s response is important because it shows that although Gregor has metamorphosed into a giant insect, he still wants to maintain some part of humanity left in him. Although he desires not to lose all the parts of his human side, he still responds like an insect when confronted by Grete after the collapse of his mother. In a way, Gregor has both human characteristics and insect-like physical features.

BRIEF ESSAY

1. Although everyone in Gregor’s family shares the blame in Gregor’s death, his father probably takes the biggest blame. This assertion is partly because he became physical with him when he threw an apple at him. His mother and sister share the blame because they did not do a lot to support him when he was struggling to work so that everyone in the family is provided for. In general, all of them put the family’s burdens on him, exploited him financially, stressed his life and did not support him during his difficult moments of metamorphosis.