

9th Grade Study Questions
The Metamorphosis, by Franz Kafka
The Odyssey, by Homer

Answers to these questions are due to your English teacher the first Friday of school.

The Metamorphosis:

1. Describe Gregor's transformation.
2. How do his family members react to Gregor's metamorphosis?
3. The following are some of the main themes within the novel; provide a detailed description of each theme and how it relates to the novel as a whole.
 - A) Economic effects on human relationships
 - B) Family Duty
 - C) Alienation
 - D) Freedom
 - E) Guilt
 - F) Personal Identity
4. Why does Grete change her attitude towards her brother Gregor? Use specific examples.
5. In every instance where Gregor leaves his room, he encounters a personal tragedy. Explain what happens to him at the end of each section.
6. Compare and contrast the reactions of the family members of the Samsa household after Gregor's transformation. Compare and contrast their reactions to Gregor's reaction.
7. What is Gregor's reaction to his sister playing the violin? Why does he react this way?
8. Why doesn't anyone in his family question why the metamorphosis ever took place?

The Odyssey:

1. How is the relationship between gods and men portrayed in the Odyssey?
2. Describe the role of family in the Odyssey
3. Explain Xenia:
4. Why would hospitality have more of significance in Homer's time than in today's world?
5. Describe the following characters in detail: A) Odysseus, B) Penelope, C) Athena, D) Calypso
6. Describe your favorite character and provide an explanation for your choice. (Choose different characters than those from question #5)
7. What does the wedding bed symbolize?