

### ***The Metamorphosis Section II Post-Reading Questions***

1. What differences does Gregor notice about his body and appetites? What is significant about these differences?

Gregor begins to "learn the value" of his antennae which he uses to feel his way around in the dark. He also does not enjoy his favorite meal and feels uneasy in his tall room. He would rather eat garbage and crawl under the couch. Gregor also notices that his body has healed faster than he anticipated.

2. What conclusion does Gregor come to after his first night under the couch?

Gregor concludes that he needs to remain calm and patient. His main worry is for that of his family and how he can make his transformation bearable for them.

3. Describe Gregor's sister, Grete. What conflicting emotions does she seem to have?

Grete is the only family member who takes care of Gregor. She brings him sweet milk and bread, but she removes his bowl "using a rag, not her bare hands." She brings him other things to eat, but does not stay in the same room with him. This indicates that she cares for her brother still but is somewhat repulsed by him.

4. What does Gregor's father reveal about the family's financial status? What is significant about the truth? How does Gregor react?

Mr. Samsa reveals that there was some money left from his old, failed business that has been collecting interest. He also reveals that they have not used all of the money that Gregor has been providing each month. Gregor notices that this extra money could have been used to "reduce his father's debt to his boss" and get him out of his hated job sooner, but he is grateful that the savings are there instead of angry. Gregor is ashamed that his family members may have to get jobs to support themselves when he has been the sole provider.

5. How does Gregor respond when Grete decides to remove the furniture from his room? What does his response tell you about him?

At first Gregor enjoys the feeling of crawling on his ceiling and walls, but when Grete decides to remove his furniture to facilitate this movement, Gregor is uneasy. He is not sure he wants to make his room "into a cave" and "forget his past when he had still been human." He is trying to keep some of his humanity intact.

6. Why does Gregor risk so much to save the picture of the woman in fur?

Gregor wants to save the picture because it represents him. He made the frame by hand, and the picture of the woman in it symbolically represents Gregor's situation. He has some of his human mind but is covered by a second skin of a vermin in the same manner as the woman is covered in the fur of another animal. Gregor is trying to embrace what humanity he has left.

7. How has Grete's demeanor toward Gregor transformed at the end of Section II?

Grete becomes uncomfortable when she walks into Gregor's room early and finds him at the window. She immediately leaves and her demeanor toward him becomes more cold and uneasy. Gregor decides to cover himself with a sheet, thinking she will remove it, but she never does. It is Grete who pushes to rid Gregor's room of all vestiges of his humanity and becomes a vocal decider in the family. She reacts with anger when their mother faints after seeing Gregor transformed.

8. How has Mr. Samsa's appearance changed since Gregor's transformation?

Mr. Samsa returns "dressed in a smart blue uniform with gold buttons" with combed hair and fresh eyes. He has not looked this good in years. He used to be tired and used a walking stick. Now he stands up straight and commands authority.

9. How is Gregor wounded and what might be the significance of the manner of his injury (including the object that wounded him)?

Mr. Samsa believes that Gregor got out of his room and harmed Mrs. Samsa. Mrs. Samsa throws apples at Gregor. One hits Gregor in his back and lodges there causing him great pain and confusion. Apples are usually symbolic of sin because of Adam and Eve from the Old Testament. It is supposed to be the "fruit of knowledge" and Gregor gains knowledge about the true feelings of his family from the apple.