Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis* Chapter 1 Study Packet: Worth 40 points in total

1. Gregor Samsa, the first chapter, is presented as a dual being (both human and insect). For example, Gregor must figure out how his new body functions and learn how to use his legs and turn over. At the same time, he has the thoughts and feelings of a human being. As you read, collect information from the chapter to support Gregor as a human as well as Gregor as an insect. (8 points)

   “He saw his curved brown belly segmented by rigid arches atop the blanket.” (3)
**Vocabulary Section (10 points):** Find the sentence that uses each of the words below and include it on the lines provided. Then look up what the word means and write the definition. Each word is worth 2 points.

A. Admonish:

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B. Brusque:

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C. Fathom:

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D. Fulminations:

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E. Harbinger:

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F. Plaintively:

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G. Ravenous:

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H. Supine:

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I. Vaulted:

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J. Vermin:

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Reading Questions (18 points in total):

2. Do you have any sympathy for Gregor? If so, why and at what times? If not, why not? (2 points)

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3. How does Gregor feel about his job? Choose 2 pieces of evidence in the story that show you: (3 points)

   How he feels: ________________________________________________________________

   Evidence 1: ________________________________________________________________

   Evidence 2: ________________________________________________________________

4. What role does Gregor have in his family? Why does he have so much responsibility? How is this role about to change? (3 points)

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5. What happens to Gregor when he leaves his room to meet the office manager? What does this show about Gregor’s father? (4 points)

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6. From Gregor’s point of view, what might be some positive aspects of his metamorphosis into an insect? (2 points)

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7. What circumstances in Gregor’s life might have caused him to feel dehumanized even before the metamorphosis took place? (4 points)

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Analyzing What You’ve Read (14 points in total)

8. Making Connections: How do the events and/or treatment Gregor faces compare to Franz Kafka’s life?
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9. Thinking Critically: Some theorists have proposed that Gregor is actually insane and only believes he has been transformed into an insect, rather than really becoming one. Evaluate this interpretation. What evidence can you find to support or refute this interpretation? (4 points)
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10. Theory to Literature: Choose one of the ideas we discussed in class on Monday (Nietzsche’s Übermensch, Marxist Interpretation, Freud’s Analysis of Dreams, or Freud’s Oedipus Complex). Does the idea you’ve chosen match to anything that happens in this chapter? Why or why not? Use evidence (6 points)
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