Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis* Chapter 3 Study Packet: Worth 50 points in total

1. As we discussed, a better translation of the original title of the story would be *The Transformation*. No matter, however, if the story is called the transformation or the metamorphosis, the characters in the novella undergo significant changes in their lives. Use this table to make notes about changes that each character undergoes. (10 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregor</td>
<td>seems to give up hope of becoming human again.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grete</td>
<td>has started working as a salesgirl, learning French and shorthand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Samsa</td>
<td>wears his bank uniform at home, as if always ready for duty.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reading Questions (19 points in total):

2. How did you respond to the ending of *The Metamorphosis*? (2 points)

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3. What other ending might the story have had instead? Explain your answer fully. (3 points)

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4. Why do you think Grete’s attitude toward Gregor changed? (4 points)

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5. Who comes to live with the Samsas? What might be the significance of these new characters? Why did Kafka not give them names or individual characteristics? (6 points)

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6. How does Gregor respond to this sister’s violin playing? What might Kafka be showing about Gregor by describing his reaction? (4 points)

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Analyzing What You’ve Read (13 points in total)

7. **Evaluating the Text:** The narrator strongly implies that Gregor starves himself to death. What other forces might have led to Gregor’s death? (4 points)

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8. **Making Connections:** What effect does Gregor’s metamorphosis ultimately have on his family? What does this effect suggest about his relationship with them? (4 points)

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9. **Thinking Critically:** The word translated as *vermin* in the first sentence of *The Metamorphosis* is *Ungeziefer* in the original German. As Kafka probably knew, *Ungeziefer* derives from a Middle High German word meaning “an unclean animal not suited for sacrifice.” What meaning do you think this word conveys about the nature of Gregor’s metamorphosis? Do you think that his death can be seen as a sacrifice in any sense? In a few paragraphs, explain why or why not. (13 points)

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