***The Metamorphosis Graphic Novel***

**By Peter Kuper**

**Biography:** Peter Kuper is a teacher and illustrator whose work has appeared in many well-known magazines. He has written several graphic novels, including adaptations of other Franz Kafka works. Some of Kuper’s works are “wordless,” graphic novels, in which he relies solely on visual elements to tell a story.

**Close Reading Guide:**

**Directions:** Use the online or a hard copy of the textbook to answer these questions. Analyze each page closely and answer each question using complete sentences and a different text color.

**Pg. 107**

1. How does Kuper’s opening differ from Kafka’s?

2. When you turn to the next page, how does the change from this page to the next mimic waking up, as Gregor does?

**Pg. 108**

3. Revisit the first two paragraphs of the novella and look at the text and images on this page. Does Gregor’s reaction in the graphic novel differ from his reaction in the beginning of the novella? Explain your reasoning.

4. Look at Gregor’s room as depicted in the graphic novel. Does Kuper do an effective job of depicting Gregor’s room as “a proper human room” that “lays peacefully between its four familiar walls”? Additionally, is the room as peaceful as Kafka describes it, or does the graphic novel create a different tone? Explain.

**Pg. 109**

5. Reread the thought balloon at the top of the page. Consider what Gregor’s thought says about Gregor’s character. What can you infer about how Gregor deals with difficult issues in his life. Explain your thoughts.

6. What is the differing purposes between the text in the bubbles and the white text on the black background?

**Pg. 110**

7. Summarize the theme the author may be trying to establish on this page. (Reminder: a theme in a story is often a message or lesson about life or human nature that an author tries to convey)

**Pg. 111**

8. Think about the theme you inferred on pg. 110. How does Kuper use graphic elements here to further support that theme. Explain.

**Pg. 112**

9. Analyze Kuper’s word choice in the bottom panel. How would the sentence change if the author had used the word “walked” or “strolled” instead of the word “marched”. (Use the word “connotation” in your explanation.)

10. Idioms are nonliteral expressions; that is, the meaning of the expression doesn’t match the combined dictionary definitions of the words. Idioms might be common to an entire language or particular to a specific geographic region. Find two idioms on this page and explain the meaning of each.

**Pg. 113**

11. Does the image on this page support Gregor’s claim in the novella that he still has hope? Explain your thoughts.

12. Oftentimes stories have multiple themes. You already discussed one theme of the story previously. Examine the images and text on this page and consider another theme in the graphic novel. (Hints: Think about what element is featured in the two panels, then examine Gregor’s reaction in each panel to help you come up with a theme.)

**Pg. 114**

13. Find an example of a hyperbole and a simile on this page. After identifying each example, explain how it helps enhance your understanding.

14. Explain the presence of the clock and what it represents. (Make sure to notice the bold circles coming out of it.)

**Pg. 115**

15. Re-read the second paragraph on page 3 and this page. Describe (below) the strengths of both mediums (both types of text) in portraying Gregor’s worries about calling in sick. Additionally, examine and explain the possible reasoning for Kuper to use different size fonts.

Kafka’s Novella:

Kuper’s Graphic Novel:

**Pg. 116-117**

16. Examine the speech bubbles on both pages. Describe how Kuper creatively uses the speech balloons and text on this page to depict different tones of voice. (You should be examining four characters’ speech bubbles: the mom, Gregor, the father, and the sister.)

**Pg. 118-119**

17. Writers can create mood in a number of ways, including the pacing of events. Writers can speed up or slow down the action to create a desired effect. Look at these pages and explain whether Kuper speeds up or slows down the action and explain how he achieves this desired effect.

**Pg. 120**

18. Describe specific graphic elements that Kuper uses to give clues about the chief clerk being an important, stern, and orderly man. (Note: also look at his speech bubbles.)

**Pg. 121**

19. What can you learn about Gregor based on his response to the chief clerk? (Hint: He could have said “I can’t”, but he chose to say “No”. What does this reveal about his character?)

**Pg. 122**

20. What words are emphasized in this panel? Why does Kuper choose these particular words for special treatment and how do these words help to develop the character of the chief clerk.

**Pg. 124 (Note: Pg. 123 is skipped)**

21. Identify the characters speaking each in panel and explain how you know.

**Pg. 125**

22. Compare the scene on the second paragraph on pg. 14 in the novella and this page of the graphic novel.

**Concluding Analysis:**

23. How well do you believe Peter Kuper captured Franz Kafka’s The Metamorphosis? Explain your thoughts. Additionally, which medium did you prefer reading?