# Questions for "The Metamorphosis" Book 1

1. What has happened to Gregor Samsa?
2. Why does Gregor have "uneasy dreams"?
3. What do we learn about Gregor from the picture he has hung on his wall?
4. Why does Gregor hate his job?
5. Why does he continue to work there?
6. How long has Gregor been working for his company?
7. Why is it the weather and NOT his metamorphosis that makes Gregor "melencholy"?
8. What is the first sign his parents get that Gregor is not well?
9. What explanation does Gregor’s mother offer the office manager?
10. What happened when Gregor attempts to defend himself through the door?
11. How did the Gregor’s parents react when they see what has happened to Gregor?
12. How does the manager react when Gregor attempts to stop him from leaving?
13. How does Gregor’s father react when Gregor leaves his room?
14. What does Gregor's boss mean when he says, "we men of business . . . very often simply have to ignore any slight indispostions, since business must be attended to"? Is this true? Why or why not?
15. How is Gregor injured?
16. Do you think Gregor's metamorphosis was self-imposed? Why or why not?
17. Given Gregor's present condition why is he still thinking about going to work?
18. While Gregor is still on his back the text says he "saw no way of bringing any calm and order into this senseless confusion, he told himself again that it was impossible to stay in bed and that the most sensible course was to risk everything for the smallest hope of getting away from it." What do think this passage might represent beyond what is literally happening in the story?
19. What does Gregor mean when he thinks, "What a fate, to be condemned to work for a firm where the smallest omission at once gave rise to the gravest suspicion!"?
20. What do you think is going to happen to Gregor?

*Explain how each of the quotes below conveys a feeling of* ***isolation****. How is Greg isolated from other people? What effect might this have upon his life?*

21. Gregor shoved himself slowly against the door, using the chair; once there, he let it go and threw himself against the door, holding himself upright against it- the balls of his little feet contained some sticky substance- and rested there from his exertions for the space of a minute. But then, he prepared to turn the key in the lock with his mouth. Unfortunately… he had no teeth.

22. When Gregor Samsa awoke from troubled dreams one morning, he found that he had been transformed in his bed into an enormous bug.

23. To be sure he now realized his speech was no longer intelligible, even though it seemed clear enough to him.

24. Even when crawling he left behind traces of his sticky substance here and there.