

### Book title

The metamorphosis

### Author

Franz Kafka



### Bibliographic information

Bur Biblioteca Universale-Rizzoli.2013

### Links (adaptations, reviews, full texts etc.)

- [http://www.scritturaimmanente.it/kafka/racconti/comm\\_metam/analisi.htm](http://www.scritturaimmanente.it/kafka/racconti/comm_metam/analisi.htm)
- <http://giorgiobaruzzi.altervista.org/blog/kafka-risveglio-gregor-samsa-metamorfofi/>

### Theme

Fantasy

### Short summary

The Metamorphosis is a novella by Franz Kafka, first published in 1915. The story begins with a travelling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. He is not concerned about his new physical appearance, but about his being unable to perform the tasks expected of him, as a model employee.

### Why is the story appropriate for the targeted groups of RSP readers?

The novel can be considered a psychological fantasy, a genre which is highly appreciated by young readers, who especially tend to be interested in gaining a psychological insight of themselves in order to find out more about their mysterious inner world.



### **What are the distinguished readers interests reflected by this book/story?**

Psychology appeals to young readers because they try to find explanations about their inner world and about what other people think of them.

### **Why is this story motivational for the pupils?**

Because young readers are afraid of changes, even though they have to cope with them since adolescence is an age marked by great changes: from childhood to adolescence.

### **Is there a historical, political, multi/inter cultural, migrant or similar context recognized in this book/story?**

No, there isn't.

### **Is there a principle of inclusion reflected in this book/story and does it promotes understanding of cultural diversities and heritage?**

No, there isn't

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## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Title of Activity**

Reading for fun

### **Description of educational activity**

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Pupils' age:** 14-16

**Organization of the class of pupils:** group work

**Pupils' tasks:** Students read the extract "Gregor Samsa wakes up" from Kafka's "Metamorphosis" and analyse it, following the teacher's instructions. In this first step they work individually, in order to test their ability to analyse extracts, their knowledge of the psychological-fantasy genre and of the author. Then, they organize teams of 4-5 elements to simulate the quiz game broadcast by the third channel of Italian TV on Saturday afternoons "Per un pugno di libri". Each team chooses the students who are in charge of answering the questions on authors, titles of works, genres, characters and contents of stories.

### **Support materials:**

- The extract "Gregor Samsa wakes up", from Kafka's "Metamorphosis".
- A Map of the fantasy genre: fantasy and fairy tales
- Brother Grimms' fairy tales "Hansel and Gretel" "Cinderella" and "Little Red Riding Hood", from : Jacob e Wilhelm Grimm, "Fiabe"- Oscar Classici-Mondadori.
- Lists of authors and titles of novels from different countries, read at school, given by the teacher.



### **Evaluation and assessment method:**

The challenge triggers competition both inside the group and among the groups belonging to the other classes involved in the Project.

Games constitute an effective way of learning just because they actively involve all students, who learn while playing.

All students have read the 4 extracts proposed for the analysis and have done homework about them.

### **Connection to curriculum**

**Grade:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### **Knowledge:**

- Narrative techniques
- Basic structures of narrative texts
- The fantasy genre and the fairy tales.

### **Skills:**

- Being able to distinguish the peculiar characteristics of the literary genres, recognizing fantasy, horror and terror.

### **Competences:**

- Reading
- Understanding and interpreting written texts of various kinds, and in particular, using information/knowledge to face a team game, following the rules.

### **Bibliographic reference to be used during the activity**

#### **Italian version**

La Metamorfosi di Franz Kafka n. 70 pagine

Editore: Einaudi (7 marzo 2014)

Collana: Einaudi tascabili. Classici

Lingua: Italiano

ISBN-10: 8806220632

ISBN-13: 978-8806220631,





## Digital sources

The extract is well suited for the narrative analysis requested by the team game modelled on the tv programme “Per un pugno di libri”.

- <http://www.perunpugnodilibri.rai.it/>
- <http://www.culturaitalia.it/viewItem.jsp?language=en&case=&id=oai%3Aoaicat.indire.it%3AD-JFVG4GFS>
- <http://doc.studenti.it/scheda-libro/italiano/5/metamorfosi-franz-kafka.html>
- <http://www.hoepli.it/libro/fiabe/9788804672050.html>

## Results

The science fiction genre is highly appreciated by young people who know it also thanks to the cinema. The literary text differs from the film as it does not involve the use of special effects, therefore it offers the opportunity for a deeper reflection on the themes and the possibility to analyse the characters accurately especially if we want to introduce creative writing.

## Recommendations

The role play of the “impossible interview” arouses students’ interest and encourages accurate and intensive reading. It enriches vocabulary and fosters oral and written linguistic skills.