Name:	Date:

The Metamorphosis
Franz Kafka

SHORT-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following items after you have read the text.

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RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

1. **Explain what the text says explicitly.**
   Reread paragraphs 2–4. What is Gregor's attitude toward his transformation? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

2. **(a) Identify a theme and explain how it develops over the course of a text.**
   Identify a theme, or message, of "The Metamorphosis." Then, explain how the author develops this theme over the course of the story.

   (b) Write an objective summary of the text.
   Write an objective summary of "The Metamorphosis" that includes key events and details but not personal opinions or judgments.

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RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

3. **(a) Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text.**
    How does Gregor change over the course of the story? What is his role in the family as the story begins? How does that change? How do Gregor's feelings about his family change as the story progresses?

    (b) Analyze how complex characters interact with other characters.
    Describe how Gregor's relationship with his sister Grete changes in the story. What is their relationship like before his transformation? How do their interactions change in the story? How do those changes reflect Grete's changing attitude toward her brother?

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RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

4. **(a) Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including connotative meanings.**
    In paragraph 108, Grete says, "But this animal plagues us." What is the connotation of the word *plague* in this paragraph? What does the word help communicate about the family's experience?

    (b) Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning.
    Reread paragraph 113, in which Gregor's death is described. What do the words and phrases that the author chose to describe Gregor's death reveal about Gregor's feelings in the last moments of his life?

EXTENDED-RESPONSE ACTIVITY   **Modernism**

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following activity as either a written response or as a group discussion.

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RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

5. Identify how Kafka's choices related to structure and the order of events in "The Metamorphosis" help create the ambiguity, dream-like quality, and sense of alienation that are characteristic of Modernist writing.

Use these guidelines in your writing or discussion.
- Identify how the story is ambiguous, or open-ended. Which elements of the story are never explained?
- Identify some of the dream-like elements in the story. For example, how is Gregor's situation like a nightmare?
- Which character represents the Modernist theme of alienation, or feelings of isolation and disconnection from people?
- Consider the order of events. When is the greatest surprise in the story revealed? How does the order of events contribute to a theme about alienation?

TIP FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE
Take notes as you work through the bulleted items. Then, rework your notes into a cohesive written response.

TIP FOR DISCUSSION
Appoint a group leader to ensure that everyone participates in the discussion.