



CLASS :VI

Subject: English Literature

Date:11/6/20

Topic: A strange transformation

Time Limit:30 mins

Worksheet No.:17

After seeing the video, go through the summary of the story. The meanings of difficult words are given. Still if you find there are more difficult words take help of the dictionary.

https://youtu.be/KWeL_QqK1NA

Summary

The story begins with the description of vermin Gregor Samsa who was mysteriously transformed into a gigantic insect after he woke up. He lived with his parents and sister, whom he was supporting by doing a job as a travelling salesman, which he did not like. He lived the life without friends and no social life at all. He was not close to his family members except his sister Grete.

After his transformation he did not find himself horrifying or even inconvenience with his changed appearance. He only thought about the unpleasant job and thought that he would be late as he slept for long. He was thinking of earning money to pay off his parents' debts.

Gregor was consistently called by his family members from outside the room, but he could not answer them in the usual way. He could realize that his voice

sounds strange, like a "horrible twittering squeak." He could not wave his little insect legs and unable to control his new insect like body. In the meantime the chief clerk of Gregor's firm arrived to inquire about him. As he heard the voice of chief clerk who warned and criticize him for not attending the job and gave a hint that he might lose his job. Gregor did not like his firm to send a person from the higher rank like him to inquire on minor thing like that. This even made Gregor more upset and in defense, he gives a long speech which no one could understand from outside the room. After hearing his voice chief clerk said "That was not a human voice." Gregor's mother thought that he might be ill, so she sent her daughter Grete to call a doctor. Gregor's father sent the servant girl for a locksmith to open the door from outside.

Meanwhile, Gregor decided to show himself before his family members and chief clerk. With the greatest difficulty he somehow managed to use his toothless like insect jaws to open the lock of the door. As he opened the door his mother fall to the ground in the sight of her son. Gregor's father started crying and chief clerk ran away, yelling "Ugh!"

The second part of the story begins with the state of Gregor who found himself most comfortable hiding under the sofa and crawling up the walls and hanging from the ceiling. He no longer liked fresh food rather he preferred half decayed scraps which his sister left for him. His family members lost their hope that Gregor would return to human form. It was only Gregor's sister Grete who took care of him. She arranged a sheet for Gregor in front of sofa to hide himself. One day, a sudden feeling of belongingness came to Gregor so he climbed up the wall towards the lady in furs. By seeing that his father threw apples over him, which seriously wounded him and fainted.

Earlier, other family members did not work, but now they started working to support the family along with the responsibility to take care of Gregor. Gregor was injured and locked on the wall with an apple on his back. There was no one in the family to remove the apple and release him from the state where he was suffering and starving. He was neglected and left in the room which turned into a dumping area. One evening, Gregor was fascinated by the music when he heard the violin played by his sister for her parents and lodgers. He experienced some sort of nourishment. He came out of his room thinking to reach his sister to invite in his room with other violin and kiss her on the neck. But the lodgers saw Gregor and realized that they were sharing a house with such creature and they gave notice that they would sue in case of damage

done by the vermin. Grete, wanted to get rid of Gregor thinking that he was no more her brother Gregor; but a creature and he could drive away their lodgers.

Feeling, weak and sad Gregor wanted to disappear as his sister desired. He died that night. His death energized their family, especially Mr. Samsa. Grete had turned into an attractive young woman for whom her parents would find a husband soon for her.



4. A Strange Transformation

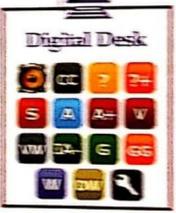
Learning Outcomes

- read the story aloud with expressions and understand it, draw conclusions and make notes
- learn new words and infer their meanings
- draw from personal experiences or real-life situations
- learn about verb-noun collocations
- learn about main and subordinate clauses
- learn about noun clauses
- write a descriptive paragraph.

Literary Appreciation

When images and events, that are not connected, are put together in a strange way, as if they are happening deep in the mind, it is called surrealism. "A Strange Transformation" is a surreal story. It can be interpreted as a long dream in which a man imagines himself turning into another being.

Digital Desk



Warm-up

Tell us about a dream that you remember. What feelings did you recall?

You are very tired overnight and you imagine strange things. Describe and draw your imagination.

Cross-curricular Connection

The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is an interesting process of transformation. At first, the caterpillar or a larva which hatches from an egg, stuffs itself with leaves, grows bigger and longer through a series of molts in which it sheds its skin. After this, the larva hangs itself upside down from a branch or a leaf and spins itself a silky cocoon. Inside this protective shield, the caterpillar radically changes its body, eventually emerging as a butterfly.





Animals and Plants

'A Strange Transformation' is adapted from The Metamorphosis. Kafka deals with the question of identity in this story.

One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that, in bed, he had been changed into a monstrous **verminous** bug. He lay on his **armour-hard** back and saw, as he lifted his head up a little, his brown, arched **abdomen** divided up into rigid bow-like sections. From this height, the blanket, just about ready to slide off completely, could hardly stay in place. His numerous legs, pitifully thin in comparison to the rest of his body, **flickered** helplessly before his eyes.

'What's happened to me?' he thought. It was no dream. His room, a proper room for a human being, **only** somewhat too small, lay quietly between the four well-known walls. Above the table, on which an unpacked collection of sample cloth goods was spread out (Samsa was a travelling salesman) hung the picture which he had cut out of an illustrated magazine a little while ago and set in a pretty frame.

Gregor's glance then turned to the window. The dreary weather (the raindrops were falling audibly down on the metal window ledge) made him quite sad.

'Why don't I keep sleeping for a little while longer and forget all this foolishness,' he told himself. But this was entirely impractical, for he was used to sleeping on his right side, and in his present state he couldn't get himself into this position. No matter how hard he threw himself onto his right side, he always rolled again onto his back.

He must have tried it a hundred times, closing his eyes, so that he would not have to see the **wriggling** legs, and gave up only when he began to feel a light, dull pain in his side which he had never felt before.

'O God,' he thought, 'what a demanding job I've chosen! Day in, day out on the road. The stresses of trade are much greater than the work going on at head office, and, in addition to that, I have to deal with the problems of travelling, the worries about train connections, irregular bad food, temporary and constantly changing human relationships which never come from the heart. To hell with it all!' He felt a slight itching on the top of his abdomen. He slowly pushed himself on his back closer to the bed post so that he could lift his head more easily, found the itchy part,

verminous: related to insects that live on the bodies of animals and sometimes humans

armour-hard: as hard as an armour (a metal clothing worn by soldiers in the past)

abdomen: the part of the body below the chest

flickered: moved with small quick movements

wriggling: twisting and turning

which was entirely covered with small white spots (he did not know what to make of them), and tried to feel the place with a leg. But he **retracted** it immediately, for the contact felt like a cold shower all over him.

He slid back again into his earlier position. 'This getting up early,' he thought, 'makes a man quite idiotic. A man must have his sleep. If I didn't hold back for my parents' sake, I would've quit ages ago. I would've gone to the boss and told him just what I think from the bottom of my heart. He would've fallen right off his desk! How weird it is to sit up at the desk and talk down to an employee from way up there. The boss is hard of hearing, so an employee has to step up quite close to him. Anyway, I haven't completely given up that hope yet. Once I've got together the money to pay off the parents' debt to him—that should take another five or six years—I'll do it for sure. Then I'll make the big break. In any case, right now, I have to get up. My train leaves at five o'clock.'

And he looked over at the alarm clock ticking away by the chest of drawers.

'Good God,' he thought. It was half past six, and the hands were going quietly on.

Could the alarm have failed to ring? One saw from the bed that it was properly set for four o'clock. Certainly, it had rung.

Yes, but was it possible to sleep through this noise that made the furniture shake?

Now, it's true he'd not slept quietly, but evidently he'd slept all the more deeply.

Still, what should he do now? The next train left at seven o'clock. To catch that one, he would have to go in a mad rush.

The sample collection wasn't packed up yet, and he really didn't feel particularly fresh and active. And even if he caught the train, there was no avoiding a blowup with the manager.

As he was thinking all this over in the greatest haste, without being able to make the decision to get out of bed (the alarm clock was indicating exactly quarter to seven) there was a cautious knock on the door by the head of the bed.

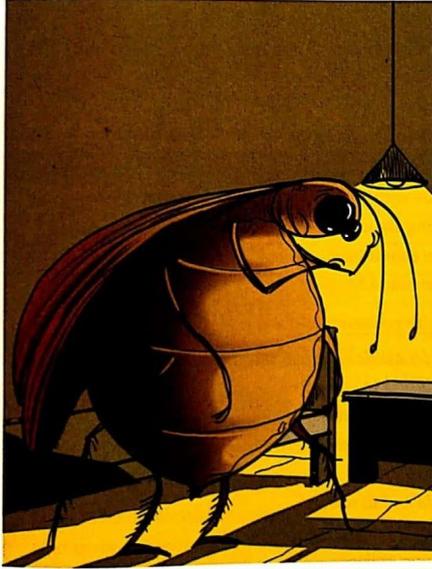
'Gregor,' a voice called (it was his mother!) 'it's quarter to seven. Don't you want to be on your way?'

Gregor was startled when he heard his voice answering. It was clearly and unmistakably his earlier voice, but in it was **intermingled**, as if from below, a painful squeaking.

Gregor wanted to answer in detail and explain everything, but in these circumstances, he confined himself to saying, 'Actually...yes, yes, thank you, mother. I'm getting up right away.'

It was very easy to throw aside the blanket. He needed only to push himself up a little, and it fell by itself. But to continue was difficult, particularly because he was so unusually wide. He needed arms and hands to push himself upright. Instead of these, however, he had only many small limbs which were moving continuously with very different motions and which, in addition, he was unable to control. If he wanted to bend one of them, the first limb extended itself, and if he finally succeeded doing with this limb what he wanted, in the meantime, all the others, as if left free, moved around in an excessively painful agitation. 'But I must not stay in bed uselessly,' said Gregor to himself.

As Gregor was in the process of lifting himself half out of bed, it struck him how



easy all this would be if someone were to come to his aid. Now, quite apart from the fact that the doors were locked, should he really call out for help?

Then there was a ring at the door of the apartment. 'That's someone from the office...' he told himself. 'They aren't opening,' Gregor said to himself, caught up in some absurd hope. But of course then, as usual, the servant girl with her firm tread went to the door and opened it.

Gregor needed to hear only the visitor's first word of greeting to recognise immediately who it was—the manager himself.

absurd: not sensible

tread: the manner that somebody walks



33

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After reading the story write down a few lines on each of the characters present in the story.