

Listening Guide- Franz Kafka- *The Metamorphosis*

“I’m a Bug!”

1. The world that he creates is the \_\_\_\_\_ we all live in from time to time, but not the good one.
2. What Kafka tries to show is that the modern world, the way that we live our lives, is \_\_\_\_\_; it’s frustrating; it can be cruel, but sometimes it can be ridiculous.
3. Kafkaesque is an expression of a system which is a tyranny without a \_\_\_\_\_ and serves no one but itself.
4. “It’s only because of their \_\_\_\_\_ that they are able to be so sure of themselves.”
5. “There is an infinite amount of \_\_\_\_\_ in the universe, but not for us.”
6. We can feel powerless and claustrophobic, and he \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of those feelings, and he makes them into metaphors.
7. He was born in 1883 in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He spoke Czech; he spoke \_\_\_\_\_; he spoke Yiddish, and he got pretty good at Hebrew.
9. Hermann Kafka was a physically \_\_\_\_\_ man; he was accomplished; he made a lot of money.
10. A contemporary of Kafka was Sigmund Freud; and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Kafka is so deep.
11. Writers like Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard, and Marx, and Buber, thinkers that started \_\_\_\_\_.
12. That’s every small town kid coming to the big city also, and that’s the \_\_\_\_\_ of industrialization and modernization that lots of us experience when we move.
13. Max Brod was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Kafka’s; he actually was a little bit famous or at least well known when they met.
14. He wooed her and doted on her in the \_\_\_\_\_, but as soon as the relationship got physical he pulled back.
15. He wrote “The Judgement” in a single night two days after writing a \_\_\_\_\_ to Felice for the first time.
16. His books are about angst, I think, or sorting out \_\_\_\_\_, and that’s what his life is about.

17. He writes his father a 47 page letter where he really releases a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in it about his treatment as a child.
18. He wrote to Dr. Klopstock, “Kill me or you are a \_\_\_\_\_.”
19. All three of Kafka’s \_\_\_\_\_ lost their lives in Nazi death camps.
20. The story itself is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ parts.
21. This book is written in \_\_\_\_\_, so when we read it we’re reading an English translation of it.
22. “When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams he found himself changed in his \_\_\_\_\_ into a monstrous vermin.”
23. In the Czech language, the word for \_\_\_\_\_ is “sam” and the word for “I am” is “jsem”.
24. Freud says that \_\_\_\_\_ are the pictorial language that speech once was, literally the metaphors hidden in speech.
25. “Waking up is the riskiest \_\_\_\_\_ of the day.”
26. It comes from this high German word that’s deep in its \_\_\_\_\_ roots, and it comes from this idea of “ziefer”, this animal meant for sacrifice.
27. Is this just kind of a physical \_\_\_\_\_ of something that he already thought he was or something he actually was.
28. What is it if you’re isolated? What does it \_\_\_\_\_ like? What do we do with it?
29. This entire book is going to consist mostly of being in this one \_\_\_\_\_.
30. We, as \_\_\_\_\_, are going to feel a real sense of claustrophobia.
31. One critic I read noted that this room is an exact \_\_\_\_\_ of his room at his parents house when he was writing the book.
32. We’re not going to \_\_\_\_\_ the world except through this perspective of Gregor.
33. If any of us woke up like a bug, the first thing we’d do is say, “Why am I am \_\_\_\_\_? How can I change back?”
34. It gets \_\_\_\_\_; he’s awkwardly in this body; he’s trying to scratch and do all these weird things.
35. Those are all the psychological \_\_\_\_\_ Kafka is weaving into this short narrative.