Mr. LoGalbo/*The Metamorphosis* Study Questions

1. What is the effect of Kafka's matter-of-fact assertion of the bizarre incidents with which the story begins? How does Kafka keep the way it came to pass from becoming a major issue in the story?

2. What is the relationship between realism and fantasy in this story? What are some details that make the fantastic story credible?

3. What are Gregor's concerns in section I? To what degree do they differ from what would matter to him if he had not been transformed into an insect?

4. Why does Gregor dismiss the idea of calling for help when he tries to get out of bed?

5. What seems most important to members of his family as he lies in bed?

6. How do you view the reactions of Gregor's parents to their first view of his metamorphosis? What circumstances in ordinary life might elicit a similar response?

7. What is the significance of the view from Gregor's window?

8. Trace Gregor's adaptation to his new body. In what ways do the satisfactions of his life as an insect differ from the satisfactions of his life as a traveling salesman?

9. When Gregor's father pushes him back into his room at the end of section I, why does Kafka call it "literally a deliverance"?

10. How does Grete treat Gregor in section II? Is he ill?

11. What are Gregor's hopes for the future? Is there anything wrong with those hopes?

12. For a time, Gregor is ashamed of his condition and tries to hide from everyone. In what way might this be called a step forward for him?

13. What conflicting feelings does Gregor have about having the furniture taken out of his room? Why does he try to save the picture? What might Kafka's intention be in stressing that it is on this occasion that Grete calls Gregor by his name for the first time since his metamorphosis?

14. Why does Gregor's father behave as he does when Gregor "breaks loose"? Explain the situation that has developed by the end of section II?

15. How does the charwoman relate to Gregor? Why is she the one who presides over his "funeral"?

16. Compare the role of the lodgers in the family with Gregor's role. Have they supplanted him? Why does Gregor's father send them away in the morning?

17. How does Gregor's condition deteriorate by the end of the story, in his environment and within himself?

18. How does Gregor's family behave at the end of the story? What are your reactions to the events and atmosphere at the end?

19. What symbolic objects or other details appear in the story?