English 12 **Kafka’s *Metamorphosis* Part II**

1. Some critics suggest that Gregor’s growing appreciation of his antennae and his loss of interest in milk hints at Gregor’s loss of humanity. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your reasoning. What other ways does Gregor appear to be “adjusting” to his condition? Why do you think that Gregor needs to crawl under the couch to feel comfortable?
2. What human qualities does Gregor still possess? In what ways is he still “human”?
3. How does Gregor treat his family during Part II? Why does he act this way? What does this tell you about Gregor as a person? How does this compare to the way that Gregor’s family treats *him*?
4. How does Gregor’s room change as Part II moves along? What do you think this means? Why is this significant?
5. Do you think that Gregor’s life as a bug is better or worse than his life as a traveling salesman? Explain.
6. Why do you think that Gregor’s father attacks him toward the end of this chapter? Why do you think this is? What is Kafka trying to indicate with this act of violence?
7. In describing the father’s change, the narrator says:

“Now, however, he was standing starkly upright, dressed in a taut blue uniform with gold buttons like the ones servants in banking institutions wore; his prominent double chin expanded above the high, stiff, pleated collar; from underneath the bushy eyebrows a bright, alert, and penetrating gaze came forth from his black eyes; the normally disheveled white hair was meticulously combed down and precisely parted. He flung his hat, upon which a gold monogram (probably of a bank) was set, across the entire room onto the couch and, with the long coattails of his uniform thrown back, went up to Gregor with a determined face and his hands in his pants pockets” (Kafka 47).

From the preceding description, what sticks out to you? How is Gregor’s father characterized in this scene? What do you think has made him feel empowered? What is he planning to do to Gregor?