

Drama- metamorphosis Reading metamorphosis for the first time I couldn't see any obvious political messages that Berkoff/Kafka were trying to convey. It's a very confusing and even absurd story line where a boy turns in to a beetle. I think this is a way Berkoff/Kafka tied to show the absurdity of life as turning in to a beetle is actually impossible. Because of this I think Gregor turning in to a beetle was a metaphorical change, although I'm not sure what it is meant to represent. When Gregor turns in to a beetle although his physical appearance changes and he is unable to speak his mind stays pretty much the same. While he is a beetle Gregors family slowly lose sympathy for him as he becomes more of a burden. I think Berkoff/Kafka wanted to show the limits of people's sympathy.

Gregor-

Gregors character stays constant throughout. He is very human despite his beetle state as he still feels guilt and love towards his family and longs to be with them. He is quite humble and very understanding as when he is a beetle he is constantly thinking of his family's feeling and trying to make it easier for them by staying out of sight. Before he was a beetle he was the provider for the family and worked at a job he did not like without complaining showing he is very selfless. At the start when he has just become a beetle I imagine his movement as very awkward and rigid. As the play goes on and he comes to terms with being a beetle I imagine his movement becomes more fluid and natural although still not human. When he gets to the point that he has learnt to climb around his cage/room I imagine he is fast and light on his feet. I imagine his human voice as being very normal, nothing distinguishable about it. His relationship with his family when he is human is very good, they never talk about any arguments and when they think about memories they are always very happy. Gregor is particularly loving towards his sister Greta who is the only other character called by their first name. But when he becomes a beetle the relationships between him and his family become strained, his father quickly gives up on him and is hostile towards him, his sister takes care of him for a long time but eventually gives up and wants rid of him, his mother however never stops caring for him but will never actually enter his room to look after him.

Greta-

Greta is the only other character who is referred to by their first name. She seems a very sympathetic and caring character as she is the only one that will enter Gregors room to give him food. She is a very innocent and selfless character as when her mother tells her to go in to Gregors room she doesn't want to but does anyway. However after a while she gives up hope on her brother and leaves him to starve and die. I imagine her voice as quite high pitched as she is a young girl and quiet but clear. I imagine her movement as smooth and light footed maybe tiptoeing some of the time. Her relationship with her brother is good as he offered to send her to study at the conservatorium. She doesn't stop loving her brother when he becomes a beetle and is the only one to take him food. Her relationship with her father becomes strained as he doesn't show sympathy towards her brother but she never falls out with him. Her relationship with her mother is strong and they both care about her brother so together they look after him although her mother relies heavily on her to take him food.

MR. S-

He is unsympathetic towards Gregors state and slowly becomes more and more irrational and volatile. He is protective of his wife and daughter when Gregor comes out of his room, but no longer