

**Discovering Kafka's Inner World: Exploring the Psychological
Realism in His Writings**

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DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I hereby declare that the data presented in this Dissertation report entitled, "Discovering Kafka's Inner World: Exploring the Psychological Realism in His Writings" is based on the results of investigations carried out by me in the Discipline Of English at the Shenoj Goembab School of Languages and Literature Goa University under the Supervision of Assistant Professor Poorwa Naik and the same has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of a degree or diploma by me. Further, I understand that Goa University or its authorities will not be responsible for the correctness of observations / experimental or other findings given the dissertation. I hereby authorize the Goa University authorities to upload this dissertation on the dissertation repository or anywhere else as the UGC regulations demand and make it available to any one as needed.

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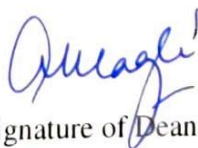
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This is to certify that the dissertation report “ Discovering Kafka's Inner World: Exploring the Psychological Realism in His Writings” a bonafide work carried out by Ms.Simran Jadon under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Master's of Arts degree in the Discipline of English at the Sheno Goembab School of Languages and Literature , Goa University.



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Abstract

In the realm of literature, Franz Kafka stands as a mysterious figure, his works serve as a winding journey into the human psyche. This dissertation delves into the intricate layers of Kafka's inner world, aiming to unravel the complexities of his psychological realism. Through close analysis and interpretation, it seeks to shed light on the themes, symbols, and narrative techniques employed by Kafka to depict the intricacies of the human mind. The journey embarked upon in this dissertation is one of discovery—a pursuit to unearth the profound insights concealed within Kafka's writings. By examining his major works, including "The Metamorphosis," "The Trial," and "The Castle," this study aims to explain the underlying psychological dimensions that exist in his narratives. Through a blend of literary criticism and psychological inquiry, it attempts to shed light on Kafka's profound understanding of human consciousness and existential fear. As the pages unfold, readers are invited to dive into the coil of Kafka's imagination, where reality merges with the surreal, and the mundane merges with the profound. This dissertation serves as a tribute to Kafka's enduring legacy, offering new perspectives on his timeless exploration of the human condition.

Keywords: Kafkuesque Existentialism, allegory, symbolic, psychological realism, psyche, human condition, guilt.

1.1 Introduction

Franz Kafka[a] (in Czech: František Kafka; 3 July 1883 – 3 June 1924) was a German-speaking Bohemian Jewish novelist and short-story writer based in Prague, who is widely regarded as one of the major figures of 20th-century literature. His work fuses elements of realism and the fantastic. It typically features isolated protagonists facing bizarre or surrealistic predicaments and incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers. It has been interpreted as exploring themes of alienation, existential anxiety, guilt, and absurdity. His best known works include the novella *The Metamorphosis* and novels *The Trial* and *The Castle*.

Kafka's works have captivated readers with their mysterious and thought-provoking narratives. But what lies beneath the surface?

In this study, the aim is to unravel the psychological realism embedded within Kafka's writings. By examining his use of surrealism, alienation, absurdity, and other literary techniques, one can gain deeper insights into the complexities of the human mind.

Through a combination of qualitative analysis and textual exploration, the study will deal with the symbolic elements, metaphors, and themes of existential anxiety and identity crisis present in Kafka's works. It will reveal the unheard, unread facts and experiences of Franz Kafka which led him to write in an unusually mysterious way.

The study will explore "The Trial," "Metamorphosis," and "The Castle" by Franz Kafka into different specific types of psychology. The Trial novel can be categorized as existential psychological realism. It explores themes of guilt, alienation, and the absurdity of the human condition. The protagonist, Josef K., is caught in a nightmarish legal system, and Kafka delves into his psychological state as he grapples with his own guilt and the mysterious forces controlling his fate. Metamorphosis novella can be categorised as psychological allegorical realism. It portrays the psychological transformation of the protagonist, Gregor Samsa, into a giant insect. Kafka uses this allegory to explore themes of alienation, identity, and the human psyche. The story delves into Gregor's psychological state as he experiences isolation, rejection, and a sense of otherness. The Castle novel can be categorised as symbolic psychological realism. It follows the protagonist 'K' as he tries to gain access to the mysterious Castle. Kafka uses the Castle as a symbol of an unattainable goal, and the story delves into K.'s psychological state as he navigates bureaucracy, power dynamics, and existential questions. The novel explores themes of identity, isolation, and the search for meaning. These categorizations highlight the different ways in which Kafka explores psychological themes in his works.

1.2 Importance and reasons

Firstly, it allows one to gain a deeper understanding of Kafka as a writer and the influences that shaped his unique literary style. By exploring the psychological realism in his works, one can uncover the intricate connections between his personal experiences and his writings

Secondly, the topic fills a research gap in the field. While Kafka's works have been extensively studied, there has been limited exploration of the direct impact of his personal experiences on his writings. By delving into his inner world, we can shed new light on the profound connection between his life and his literary creations.

Lastly, understanding the psychological realism in Kafka's writings can provide valuable insights into the complexities of the human condition. His exploration of themes such as alienation, identity, and existential angst resonates with readers across generations. By examining the psychological depths of his works through historical context, one can gain a deeper appreciation for the universal themes the addresses

Overall, it is significant in unravelling the mysterious world of Kafka and uncovering the psychological difficulties that make his writings timeless and thought-provoking.

1.3 Scope and limitations

One limitation is the subjective nature of interpreting Kafka's writings and connecting them to his personal experiences. Since Kafka did not clearly document the direct influence of his life on his works, one can rely on literary analysis and historical context to make these connections.

Another limitation is the availability of primary sources. Kafka's personal diaries and letters provide valuable insights, but they may not fully capture his innermost thoughts and

emotions. Additionally, the scope of this dissertation focuses primarily on Kafka's psychological realism, which may limit the exploration of other literary aspects of his works.

Overall, while it offers a fascinating exploration of Kafka's inner world and psychological realism, it's important to consider these limitations and approach the research with a critical and subtle perspective.

The scope of studying psychological realism in the context of Franz Kafka's novels, such as "The Trial," "Metamorphosis," and "The Castle," is vast. It allows us to delve into the depths of the human psyche, exploring themes of guilt, alienation, identity, and existentialism. By analysing the psychological aspects of Kafka's characters, one can gain insights into their motivations, emotions, and inner struggles.

However, interpretation of psychological states can be subjective, as readers may have different perspectives and understandings of the characters' mental experiences. Additionally, Kafka's writing often incorporates elements of the absurd and the surreal, making it challenging to apply conventional psychological theories to his work.

Furthermore, studying psychological realism in Kafka's novels may not provide a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of human psychology. While his works offer valuable insights into certain psychological themes, they may not cover the breadth of human experiences and emotions.

Studying psychological realism in Franz Kafka's novels offers a rich exploration of the human psyche, but it's important to recognize the subjectivity of interpretation and the limitations of applying conventional psychological theories to his unique writing style.

1.4 Research question

To what extent do Kafka's interpersonal relationships and interactions with society shape the psychological realism depicted in his works?

1.5 Relevance and necessity of the research

Firstly, Kafka is widely regarded as one of the most influential and enigmatic writers of the 20th century. Understanding the psychological aspects of his works can provide valuable insights into his unique writing style and themes.

Secondly, exploring the psychological realism in Kafka's writings can deepen the reader's understanding of his character's emotions, and struggles. It allows us to delve into the complexities of human psychology and the human condition, which are universal themes that resonate with readers across time and cultures.

Furthermore, studying Kafka's inner world can shed light on the connections between his personal experiences and his literary creations. By examining his writings through a psychological lens, one can gain a deeper appreciation for the depth and complexity of his works.

Lastly, this contributes to the existing body of scholarship on Kafka, expanding knowledge and providing new perspectives on his writings. It opens up an approach for further research and analysis, providing a greater understanding of Kafka's literary legacy.

Overall, it is relevant and necessary for enriching one's understanding of Kafka as a writer and exploring the complex relationship between his personal experiences and his literary creations.

1.6 Relevance and necessity in the field of language and literature

It allows us to analyse the connections between language, literature, and the human psyche. By exploring the psychological realism in Kafka's writings, one can gain a deeper understanding of the power of language in conveying complex emotions and thoughts. It also contributes to the broader field of literary criticism and helps to appreciate the significance of psychological elements in literature. It allows us to see literature in connection to the author to draw correct judgements and meaning out of it. It will also provide a ride to historical background and the consequences of war on literature during Kafka's era which will gain valuable insights in knowing what kinds of literature were banned during and after the war and how it has an impact on a writer's life.

1. 7 Relevance to the society:

It is relevant to society because it offers a unique perspective on the human condition. Kafka's exploration of the human psyche in his writings can connect with readers and provide insights into the complexities of their own inner worlds. By understanding and appreciating the psychological realism in Kafka's work, one can gain a deeper understanding of themselves

and others, growing empathy and compassion in society. It also contributes to the field of literature and enriches cultural heritage. It allows society to know more about mental health and the societal crisis that gives rise to it.

1.8 Objectives:

1.8.1 To Analyse the psychological themes and motifs present in Kafka's writing:

The underlying psychological aspects that shape the characters and their experiences. Kafka's works often explore themes of alienation, guilt, and existentialism, which reflect the complexities of the human psyche. By examining these psychological themes, one can gain insights into the characters' inner struggles, their perceptions of reality, and the impact of societal pressures on their mental states. This analysis will allow us to understand the psychological depth of Kafka's writing and the ways in which he portrays the human condition. It also provides a lens through which one can interpret and relate to the characters' emotional journeys, providing a deeper appreciation for the psychological complexities of his works.

1.8.2 To investigate the impact of Kafka's personal experiences on his portrayal of the human psyche:

Investigating the impact of Kafka's personal experiences on his portrayal of the human psyche is a fascinating aspect of literary analysis. Kafka's own life was marked by a sense of isolation, feelings of inadequacy, and a strained relationship with his father. These personal experiences undoubtedly influenced his writing and the way he depicted the psychological struggles of his characters. By examining Kafka's biography and understanding the historical and cultural context in which he lived, readers can gain insights into the themes of alienation,

guilt, and existential issues. This exploration allows one to appreciate the depth and authenticity of Kafka's portrayal of the human psyche, as it is rooted in his own lived experiences and emotions. Understanding the connection between Kafka's personal life and his literary creations adds an additional layer of richness to the reader's interpretation of his works.

1.8.3. To examine the techniques used by Kafka to create psychological realism in his narratives:

Kafka often utilises a stream-of-consciousness narrative style, allowing to experience the characters' fragmented and often irrational thinking processes. Kafka also employs symbolism and metaphor to convey the complexities of the human psyche, using objects and events to represent deeper psychological states. Furthermore, he frequently incorporates elements of the absurd and the surreal, blurring the boundaries between reality and the characters' subjective perceptions. Through these techniques, Kafka masterfully captures the complexities of the human mind, creating a sense of psychological realism that resonates with readers on a profound level. His narratives invite us to reflect on our own thoughts and emotions, and to explore the depths of the human psyche.

1.8.4 Close reading of types of Psychological Realism and relating it to three suitable texts of Franz Kafka:

‘The Trial’ by Kafka relates to Existential Psychological Realism while ‘The Metamorphosis’ can be studied to be a Psychological Allegorical Realism and ‘The Castle’ as Symbolic Psychological Realism based on their story line and the role played by the protagonist. This will help to separate the text to their specific kind or type of Psychological Realism.

1.9 Literature Review:

To explore specific literary techniques employed by Kafka and their impact on the depiction of psychological aspects in his works. It allows for a detailed exploration of how Kafka's writing style enhances the understanding of the human psyche within his narratives. It also sharpens the reader's mind and ability to think beyond the practical aspects of texts. It will provide a sense of connectivity and positivity in relation to the author, the story and human conditions. Many scholars have studied the themes present in Kafka's works but that does not define the author's life and struggle hence this study with the help of psychological realism theory will explore the depth of the select texts as well as the depth of the author and his psychological status that made him write the way he wrote.

1.9.1 Researchers and research in the selected field:

A gender study of Franz Kafka and his work *The Metamorphosis* by Shubham Joshi states that the study of Franz Kafka's work with a gender-based concern has been central to the study of the author's text ever since the evolution of gender studies. *The Metamorphosis* by Kafka is his most significant work. A critical analysis of the characters of the novella, via the gender lens, unveils the social and political changes that Kafka encapsulates in his short prose about his time. This paper attempts to evaluate a rereading of Kafka's text, its character and the metaphors in the story correlated with the author's biography. The same has been done with the help of Freudian reading, Beauvoirian reading, and theories, and arguments propounded by Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith Butler, and a few other critics. Other study of Franz Kafka's *metamorphosis* by Hamedraza Kohzadi is

The story of *The Metamorphosis* by Kafka. It is the story of a travelling salesman by the name Gregor Samsa who wakes up one morning transformed into a hideous and monstrous vermin. From this bare and sketchy outline it is clear that like almost all other works of Kafka

The Metamorphosis also has to be read

not as an instance of realistic writing but as an allegorical piece. The story depicts a situation which should be seen as a poetic image which has an emotive appeal and immense interpretative possibilities. This Study attempts to examine Kafka's work from philosophical and psychological

perspectives. Specifically the works will be seen as Existential and psychological allegories.

Keywords: Kafka, *The metamorphosis*, Existentialism, Psychology, Philosophy.

Existential Angst: Central to Kafka's narrative universe is the theme of existential fear, a concept deeply rooted in his exploration of the human condition. Scholars such as Walter Sokel and Marthe Robert have extensively analyzed Kafka's portrayal of alienation, anxiety, and absurdity, suggesting that his works serve as a mirror to the existential dilemmas faced by individuals in the modern world.

Psychoanalytic Interpretations: Freudian and post-Freudian psychoanalytic perspectives offer valuable insights into Kafka's portrayal of the unconscious mind and repressed desires. Critics like Mark Anderson and Stanley Corngold have applied psychoanalytic theory to Kafka's texts, uncovering layers of symbolism and hidden meaning that showcase the author's psychological landscape.

Surrealism and Dream Logic: Kafka's urge for surrealism and dreamlike narratives blurs the boundaries between reality and illusion, inviting interpretations from the realm of

psychoanalysis. Scholars such as Maurice Blanchot and Gilles Deleuze have examined Kafka's use of dream logic, arguing that his texts function as allegorical representations of unconscious desires and fears.

However all the studies done with respect to Kafka and Psychological aspects haven't explored the types of Psychological Realism in relation to specific and most famous works of Kafka. This study will explore the specific type of a Psychological realism found after close reading of a particular text and the characters surrounding them. The study will also explore in depth the life of the author and the circumstances which led him to write the way he wrote.

1.10 Formation of Hypothesis:

Exploring Kafka's inner world through the lens of psychological realism uncovers the intricate layers of his inner world, illuminating themes of alienation, and existential fear.

1.11 Research Methodology:

A brief study of qualitative and textual analysis research of the texts 'The Trial', 'The Metamorphosis' and 'The Castle' by Franz Kafka.

Qualitative methods such as thematic analysis.

Conducting a comprehensive textual analysis of Kafka's writings, focusing on symbolism, metaphors, and narrative techniques.

Close reading of different types of Psychological Realism and their relation to the texts.

Kafka was a very mysterious writer in the world of English Literature. A close reading will lead the writer into a different world full of unsolved questions. It is very fascinating to explore the inner world of Kafka through a detailed analysis of his writings.

1.12 Research Design

1.13 Chapterization

1.13.1 Introduction: **Franz Kafka**^[a] (in Czech: František Kafka; 3 July 1883 – 3 June 1924) was a German-speaking Bohemian Jewish novelist and short-story writer based in Prague, who is widely regarded as one of the major figures of 20th-century literature. His work fuses elements of realism and the fantastic. It typically features isolated protagonists facing bizarre or surrealistic predicaments and incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers. It has been interpreted as exploring themes of alienation, existential anxiety, guilt, and absurdity. His best known works include the novella *The Metamorphosis* and novels *The Trial* and *The Castle*. Kafka's works have captivated readers with their mysterious and thought-provoking narratives. But what lies beneath the surface?

1.13.2 Unlocking Kafka's inner world through psychological realism:

Examining Kafka's personal experiences, influences, and the historical context in which he lived, his views, thoughts and relation in his real world. Through this exploration, readers can gain a deeper understanding of Kafka's life and struggles, mind and status.

1.13.3 Titles of Kafka's Texts: A Metaphor

Delves into the symbolic significance of Kafka's novel titles, exploring how they serve as metaphors for the themes and experiences within his works. Through an analysis of these titles, the chapter aims to discover deeper layers of meaning in Kafka's works.

1.13.4 From Kafkaesque allegories to symbolism existentialism:

From Kafkaesque Allegories to Symbolic Existentialism delves into the evolution of literary themes and philosophical concepts. It explores how the surreal and absurdist elements found in Kafka's works have influenced existentialist thought and symbolism in literature. Through an analysis of key texts and their philosophical depths, this chapter aims to explore the interplay between existential themes and symbolic narratives in modern literature.

1.13.5 Conclusion:

Blend of all Kafka's works in general and how they had a relation or impact of his life on his literary creation. A brief explanation about instances that relate to Kafka's real life from his literary works.

CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION: FRANZ KAFKA LIFE AND HISTORY

2.1 LIFE & HISTORY

Unlocking Kafka's Inner World Franz Kafka (in František Kafka; 3 July 1883 – 3 June 1924) was a German-speaking novelist and writer from Prague. He is widely regarded as one of the

major figures of 20th-century literature. His work highlights elements of realism and the Fantastic. It typically features isolated protagonists facing bizarre or surrealistic situations and incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers. It has been interpreted as exploring themes of alienation, existential anxiety, guilt, and absurdity. His best known works include the novella 'The Metamorphosis', and novels 'The Trial' and 'The Castle'. The term Kafkaesque has entered English to describe absurd situations like those depicted in his writing. Kafka was born into a middle-class German-speaking Czech Jewish family in Prague, the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (today the capital of the Czech Republic). He trained as a lawyer, and after completing his legal education was employed full-time by an insurance company, forcing him to avoid writing in his spare time. Over the course of his life, Kafka wrote hundreds of letters to family and close friends, including his father, with whom he had a not so friendly and formal relationship. He became engaged to several women but never married. He died in obscurity in 1924 at the age of 40 from tuberculosis. Kafka was a creative writer, spending most of his free time writing, often late in the night. He burned an estimated 90 per cent of his total work due to his continual struggles with self-doubt. Much of the remaining 10 percent is lost or otherwise unpublished. Few of Kafka's works were published during his lifetime: the story collections *Contemplation* and *A Country Doctor*, and individual stories (such as his novella *The Metamorphosis*) were published in literary magazines but received little public attention. In his will, Kafka instructed his close friend and literary executor Max Brod to destroy his unfinished works, including his novels *The Trial*, *The Castle*, and *Amerika*, but Brod ignored these instructions and had much of his work published. Kafka's writings became famous in German-speaking countries after World War II, influencing their literature, and its influence spread elsewhere in the world in the 1960s. It has also influenced artists, composers, and philosophers. Kafka's Life Kafka was born near the Old Town Square in Prague, then part of the Austro-Hungarian

Empire. His family were German-speaking middle-class Ashkenazi Jews. His father, Hermann Kafka (1854–1931), was the fourth child of Jakob Kafka, a ritual slaughterer in Osek, a Czech village with a large Jewish population located near Strakonice in southern Bohemia. Hermann brought the Kafka family to Prague. After working as a traveling sales representative, he eventually became a fashion retailer who employed up to 15 people and used the image of a jackdaw (in Czech, pronounced and colloquially written as *kafka*) as his business logo. Kafka's mother, Julie (1856–1934), was the daughter of Jakob Löwy, a prosperous retail merchant in Poděbrady, and was better educated than her husband. Kafka's parents probably spoke a German influenced by Yiddish that was sometimes called *Mauscheld*, but, as German was considered the vehicle of social mobility, they probably encouraged their children to speak Standard German. Hermann and Julie had six children, of whom Franz was the eldest. Franz's two brothers, Georg and Heinrich, died in infancy before Franz was seven; his three sisters were Gabriele ("Elli") (1889–1944), Valerie ("Valli") (1890–1942) and Otilie ("Ottla") (1892–1943). All three were murdered in the Holocaust of World War II. Valli was sent to the Łódź Ghetto in occupied Poland in 1942, but that is the last documentation of her; it is assumed she did not survive the war. Otilie was Kafka's favourite sister. Hermann is described by the biographer Stanley Corngold as a "huge, selfish, overbearing businessman" and by Franz Kafka as "a true Kafka in strength, health, appetite, loudness of voice, self-satisfaction, worldly dominance, endurance, presence of mind, knowledge of human nature". On business days, both parents were absent from the home, with Julie Kafka working as many as 12 hours each day helping to manage the family business. Consequently, Kafka's childhood was somewhat lonely, and the children were surrounded largely by a series of governesses and servants. Kafka's troubled relationship with his father is evident in his *Brief an den Vater* (Letter to His Father) of more than 100 pages, in

which he complains of being profoundly affected by his father's authoritarian and demanding character; his mother, in contrast, was quiet and shy.

The dominating figure of Kafka's father had a significant influence on Kafka's writing. The Kafka family had a servant girl living with them in an apartment. Franz's room was often cold. In November 1913 the family moved into a bigger apartment, although Ellie and Valli had married and moved out of the first apartment. In early August 1914, just after World War I began, the sisters did not know where their husbands were in the military and moved back in with the family in this larger apartment. Both Ellie and Valli also had children. Franz at age 31 moved into Valli's former apartment, quiet by contrast, and lived by himself for the first time. From 1889 to 1893, Kafka attended the Deutsche Knabenschule German boys' elementary school at the Masný trh/Fleischmarkt (meat market), now known as Masná Street. His Jewish education ended with his bar mitzvah celebration at the age of 13. Kafka never enjoyed attending the religious places and went with his father only on four high holidays a year. After leaving elementary school in 1893, Kafka was admitted to the classics-oriented state gymnasium, Altstädter Deutsches Gymnasium, an academic secondary school at Old Town Square, within the Kinský Palace. German was the language of instruction, but Kafka also spoke and wrote in Czech. He studied the latter at the gymnasium for eight years, getting good grades. Although Kafka received compliments for his Czech, he never considered himself fluent in the language, though he spoke German with a Czech accent. He completed his Matura exams in 1901. Admitted to the Deutsche Karl-Ferdinands-Universität of Prague in 1901, Kafka began studying chemistry but switched to law after two weeks.

Although this field did not excite him, it offered a range of career possibilities which pleased his father. In addition, law required a longer course of study, giving Kafka time to take

classes in German studies and art history. He also joined a student club, Lese- und Redehalle der Deutschen Studenten (Reading and Lecture Hall of the German students), which organized literary events, readings and other activities. Among Kafka's friends were the journalist Felix Weltsch, who studied philosophy, the actor Yitzchak Lowy who came from an orthodox Hasidic Warsaw family, and the writers Ludwig Winder, Oskar Baum and Franz Werfel. At the end of his first year of studies, Kafka met Max Brod, a fellow law student who became a close friend for life. Years later, Brod formed the term Der Prager Kreis ("The Close Prague Circle") to describe the group of writers, which included Kafka, Felix Weltsch and Brod himself. Brod soon noticed that, although Kafka was shy and hardly spoke, what he said was usually creative. Kafka was a keen reader throughout his life; together he and Brod read Plato's Protagoras in the original Greek, on Brod's initiative, and Flaubert's *L'éducation sentimentale* and *La Tentation de St. Antoine* (The Temptation of Saint Anthony) in French, at his own suggestion. Kafka considered Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Gustav Flaubert, Nikolai Gogol, Franz Grillparzer, and Heinrich von Kleist to be his "true blood brothers" '. Besides these, he took an interest in Czech literature and was also very fond of the works of Goethe. Kafka was awarded the degree of Doctor of Law on 18 June 1906 and performed a required year of unpaid service as law clerk for the civil and criminal courts. On 1 November 1907, Kafka was employed at the Assicurazioni Generali, an insurance company, where he worked for nearly a year. His correspondence during that period depicts that he was unhappy with the work schedule—from 08:00 until 06:00—that made it very difficult to focus on writing, which was assuming great importance to him. On 15 July 1908, he resigned. Two weeks later, he found employment more manageable to writing when he joined the Worker's Accident Insurance Institute for the Kingdom of Bohemia. The job included investigating and evaluating compensation for personal injury to industrial workers; accidents such as lost fingers or limbs were commonplace, owing to poor work safety policies at the time. It was

especially true of factories fitted with machine lathes, drills, planing machines and rotary saws, which were rarely fitted with safety guards. His father often saw his son's job as an insurance officer as a Brotberuf, literally "bread job", a job done only to pay the bills; Kafka often claimed to dislike it. Kafka was rapidly promoted and his duties included processing and investigating compensation claims, writing reports, and handling appeals from businessmen who thought their firms had been placed in too high a risk category, which cost them more in insurance premiums.

He would gather and compose the annual report on the insurance institute for the several years he worked there. The reports were well received by his superiors. Kafka usually got off work at 2 p.m., so that he had time to spend on his literary work, to which he was highly committed. Kafka's father also expected him to help out at and take over the family fancy goods store. In his later years, Kafka's illness often prevented him from working at the insurance bureau and at his writing. In late 1911, Elli's husband Karl Hermann and Kafka became partners in the first asbestos factory in Prague, known as Prager Asbestwerke Hermann & Co., having used dowry money from Hermann Kafka. Kafka showed a positive attitude at first, giving much of his free time to the business, but he later got least interested in the participation of this work on his writing time. During that period, he also found interest and entertainment in the performances of Yiddish theater. After seeing a Yiddish theatre troupe perform in October 1911, for the next six months Kafka "immersed himself in Yiddish language and in Yiddish literature". This interest also served as an initial point for his growing exploration of Judaism. It was at about this time that Kafka became a vegetarian.

Around 1915, Kafka received his draft notice for military service in World War I, but his employers at the insurance institute arranged for a suspension because his work was considered essential government service. He later attempted to join the military but was prevented from doing so by medical problems associated with tuberculosis, with which he was diagnosed in 1917. In 1918, the Worker's Accident Insurance Institute put Kafka on a pension due to his illness, for which there was no cure at the time, and he spent most of the rest of his life in hospitals. Kafka never married. According to Brod, Kafka was "tortured" by sexual desire, and Kafka's biographer Reiner Stach states that his life was full of "incessant womanizing" and that he was filled with a fear of "sexual failure".

Kafka visited brothels for most of his adult life and was interested in pornography. In addition, he had close relationships with several women during his lifetime. On 13 August 1912, Kafka met Felice Bauer, a relative of Brod's, who worked in Berlin as a representative of a Dictaphone company. A week after the meeting at Brod's home, Kafka wrote in his diary: Miss FB. When I arrived at Brod's on 13 August, she was sitting at the table. I was not at all curious about who she was, but rather took her for granted at once. Bony, empty face that wore its emptiness openly. Bare throat. A blouse thrown on. Looked very domestic in her dress although, as it turned out, she by no means was. (I alienate myself from her a little by inspecting her so closely ...) Almost broken nose. Blonde, somewhat straight, unattractive hair, strong chin. As I was taking my seat I looked at her closely for the first time, by the time I was seated I already had an unshakeable opinion. Shortly after this meeting, Kafka wrote the story "Das Urteil" ("The Judgment") in only one night and in a productive period worked on *Der Verschollene* (The Man Who Disappeared) and *Die Verwandlung* (The Metamorphosis).

Kafka and Felice Bauer communicated mostly through letters over the next five years, rarely met, and were engaged twice. Kafka's extant letters to Bauer were published as *Briefe an Felice* (Letters to Felice); her letters do not survive. After he had written to Bauer's father asking to marry her, Kafka wrote in his diary: My job is unbearable to me because it conflicts with my only desire and my only calling, which is literature.... I am nothing but literature and can and want to be nothing else.... Nervous states of the worst sort control me without pause.... A marriage could not change me, just as my job cannot change me. According to the biographers Stach and James Hawes, Kafka became engaged a third time around 1920, to Julie Wohryzek, a poor and uneducated hotel chambermaid. Kafka's father objected to Julie because of her Zionist beliefs. Although Kafka and Julie rented a flat and set a wedding date, the marriage never took place. During this time, Kafka began a draft of *Letter to His Father*. Before the date of the decided marriage, he took up with yet another woman. While he needed women and sex in his life, he had low self-confidence, felt sex was dirty, and was cripplingly shy—especially about his body. Stach and Brod state that during the time that Kafka knew Felice Bauer, he had an affair with a friend of hers, Margarethe "Grete" Bloch, a Jewish woman from Berlin. Brod says that Bloch gave birth to Kafka's son, although Kafka never knew about the child. The boy, whose name is not known, was born in 1914 or 1915 and died in Munich in 1921.

However, Kafka's biographer Peter-André Alt says that, while Bloch had a son, Kafka was not the father, as the pair were never intimate. Stach points out that there is a great deal of contradictory evidence around the claim that Kafka was the father. Kafka was diagnosed with tuberculosis in August 1917 and moved for a few months to the Bohemian village of Zürau (Siřem in Czech), where his sister Ottla worked on the farm of her brother-in-law Karl

Hermann. He felt comfortable there and later described this time as perhaps the best period of his life, probably because he had no responsibilities. He kept diaries and Oktavheft (octavo). From the notes in these books, Kafka extracted 109 numbered pieces of text on Zettel, single pieces of paper in no given order. They were later published as *Die Zürauer Aphorismen oder Betrachtungen über Sünde, Hoffnung, Leid und den Weg* (The Zürau Aphorisms or Reflections on Sin, Hope, Suffering, and the True Way). In 1920, Kafka began an intense relationship with Milena Jesenská, a Czech journalist and writer who was non-Jewish and who was married, but when she met Kafka, her marriage was a "sham". His letters to her were later published as *Briefe an Milena*. During a vacation in July 1923 to Graal-Müritz on the Baltic Sea, Kafka met Dora Diamant, a 25-year-old kindergarten teacher from an orthodox Jewish family. Kafka, hoping to escape the influence of his family to focus on his writing, moved briefly to Berlin (September 1923-March 1924) and lived with Diamant. She became his lover and sparked his interest in the Talmud. He worked on four stories, including *Ein Hungerkünstler* (A Hunger Artist), which were published shortly after his death. Kafka's personality had a lifelong doubt that people found him mentally and physically strange. However, many of those who met him found him to possess great intelligence and a sense of humor; they also found him handsome, although of harsh appearance. Brod compared Kafka to Heinrich von Kleist, noting that both writers had the ability to describe a situation realistically with accurate details. Brod thought Kafka was one of the most entertaining people he had met; Kafka enjoyed sharing humour with his friends, but also helped them in difficult situations with good suggestions. According to Brod, he was a passionate speaker, able to phrase his speech as though it were music. Brod felt that two of Kafka's most distinguishing traits were "absolute truthfulness" (absolute Wahrhaftigkeit) and "precise conscientiousness" (präzise Gewissenhaftigkeit).

He explored details, in depth and with such love and accuracy that things surfaced that were unexpected, strange, but absolutely true (als). Although Kafka showed little interest in exercise as a child, he later developed a passion for games and physical activity, and was an expert rider, swimmer, and rower. On weekends, he and his friends went on long hikes, often planned by Kafka himself. His other interests included alternative medicine, modern education systems such as Montessori, and technological novelties such as airplanes and film. Writing was very important to Kafka; he termed it a "form of prayer". He was highly sensitive to noise and demanded complete silence when writing. Pérez-Álvarez has claimed that Kafka had symptomatology consistent with schizoid personality disorder. His style, it is claimed, not only in *Die Verwandlung* (The Metamorphosis) but in other writings, appears to show low- to medium-level schizoid traits, which Pérez-Álvarez claims to have influenced much of his work. His pain can be seen in this diary entry from 21 June 1913. *Die Welt, die ich im Kopf habe* . Aber wie mich befreien und sie befreien, zu zerreißen. Und lieber zerreißen, als in mir, sie zurückzuhalten oder zu begraben. Dazu bin ich ja , das ist mir ganz klar. (Kafka, Franz. *Diaries 1910-1923*.) The tremendous world I have inside my head, but how to free myself and free it without being torn to pieces. And a thousand times rather be torn to pieces than retain it in me or bury it. That, indeed, is why I am here, that is quite clear to me. and in Zürau Aphorism number 50: Man cannot live without a permanent trust in something indestructible within himself, though both that indestructible something and his own trust in it may remain permanently concealed from him. Alessia Coralli and Antonio Perciaccante of San Giovanni di Dio Hospital have posited that Kafka may have had borderline personality disorder with co-occurring psychophysiological insomnia. Joan Lachkar interpreted *Die Verwandlung* as "a vivid depiction of the borderline personality" and described the story as "a model for Kafka's own abandonment fears, anxiety, depression, and parasitic dependency needs. Kafka illuminated the borderline's general confusion of normal

and healthy desires, wishes, and needs with something ugly and disdainful." Though Kafka never married, he held marriage and children in high respect. He had several girlfriends and lovers throughout his life. He may have suffered from an eating disorder. Doctor Manfred M. Fichter of the Psychiatric Clinic, University of Munich, presented "evidence for the hypothesis that the writer Franz Kafka had suffered from an atypical anorexia nervosa". and that Kafka was not just lonely and depressed but also "occasionally suicidal". In his 1995 book *Franz Kafka, the Jewish Patient*, Sander Gilman investigated "why a Jew might have been considered 'hypochondriacal' or 'homosexual' and how Kafka incorporates aspects of these ways of understanding the Jewish male into his own self-image and writing". Kafka considered suicide at least once, in late 1912. Before World War I, Kafka attended several meetings of the Klub mladých, a Czech anarchist, anti-militarist, and anti-clerical organization. Hugo Bergmann, who attended the same elementary and high schools as Kafka, fell out with Kafka during their last academic year (1900–1901) because "[Kafka's] socialism and my Zionism were much too strident". Bergmann said: "Franz became a socialist, I became a Zionist in 1898. The synthesis of Zionism and socialism did not yet exist". Bergmann claims that Kafka wore a red carnation to school to show his support for socialism. In one diary entry, Kafka made reference to the influential anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin: "Don't forget Kropotkin!" During the communist era, the legacy of Kafka's work for Eastern Bloc socialism was hotly debated. Opinions ranged from the notion that he mocked the bureaucratic bungling of a crumbling Austro-Hungarian Empire, to the belief that he embodied the rise of socialism.

A further key point was Marx's theory of alienation. While the orthodox position was that Kafka's depictions of alienation were no longer relevant for a society that had supposedly

eliminated alienation, a 1963 conference held in Liblice, Czechoslovakia, on the eightieth anniversary of his birth, reassessed the importance of Kafka's portrayal of bureaucracy. Whether or not Kafka was a political writer is still an issue of debate. Kafka's laryngeal tuberculosis worsened and in March 1924 he returned from Berlin to Prague, where members of his family, principally his sister Ottla and Dora Diamant, took care of him. He went to Hugo Hoffmann's sanatorium in Kierling just outside Vienna for treatment on 10 April, and died there on 3 June 1924. The cause of death seemed to be starvation: the condition of Kafka's throat made eating too painful for him, and since parenteral nutrition had not yet been developed, there was no way to feed him. Kafka was editing "A Hunger Artist" on his deathbed, a story whose composition he had begun before his throat closed to the point that he could not take any nourishment. His body was brought back to Prague where he was buried on 11 June 1924, in the New Jewish Cemetery in Prague-Žižkov. Kafka was virtually unknown during his own lifetime, but he did not consider fame important. He rose to fame rapidly after his death, particularly after World War II. The Kafka tombstone was designed by architect Leopold Ehrmann.

Franz Kafka, a renowned German-speaking writer from Prague, is widely celebrated as one of the most influential figures in 20th-century literature. His works delve deep into the realms of inner psychology, leaving a keen impact on both his readers and the literary world as a whole. Kafka's psychology was indeed shaped by the lack of family love and parental love he experienced during his childhood. His relationship with his father, Hermann Kafka, was particularly strange and had a significant impact on his writing.

One strong evidence of this influence is seen in Kafka's famous novella, "Letter to His Father." In this letter, Kafka expresses his deep emotions and expresses to his father about the emotional neglect and the lack of understanding he felt throughout his life. The letter provides a powerful factor to the impact of familial relationships on Kafka's psychology and his writing. Additionally, Kafka's novel, "The Judgment," explores themes of guilt, isolation, and the complexities of father-son relationships. The protagonist, Georg Bendemann, is tortured by his father's judgment and ultimately faces a tragic fate. This story reflects Kafka's own struggles with his father's expectations and the psychological consequence it took on him.

Through his works, Kafka delves into the psychological effects of familial relationships, portraying the longing for love and acceptance, as well as the emotional conflict that arises from their absence. His writings serve as a proof to the profound impact of family dynamics on an individual's psyche. Kafka's writing is characterized by a unique blend of realism and the Fantastic, creating a clear atmosphere of unease and mystery. His stories often deal with isolated protagonists who find themselves trapped in bizarre and surreal situations, where they deal with incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers. This exploration of the human psyche is a central theme in Kafka's works, as he delves into the depths of the subconscious mind and exposes the complexities of the human condition.

One of the key aspects of Kafka's inner psychology is the theme of alienation. His characters often feel detached from society, struggling to find their place in a world that seems indifferent and confrontational. This sense of isolation shows Kafka's own personal struggles with social anxiety and feelings of deficiency. Through his writing, he delivers these

emotions, calling readers to confess their own feelings of alienation and identify the absurdity of human existence. Existential anxiety is another leading theme in Kafka's works. His characters are troubled by a sense of existential fear, dealing with the meaninglessness and uselessness of life. This existential fear is often raised by the presence of faceless and impersonal forces that control their lives, depicting the harsh nature of societal construction. Kafka's exploration of existential anxiety shows a reflection of his own internal struggles and connects with readers who deal with similar existential questions.

Guilt is yet another psychological theme that is present in Kafka's writing. His characters often experience overwhelming guilt, whether it be for their own actions or for simply existing in a world that demands observation. This guilt is often difficult to explain, showcasing Kafka's own feelings of guilt and self-doubt. By delving into the depths of guilt, Kafka invites readers to confront their own moral puzzles and question the nature of guilt itself.

The impact of Kafka's inner psychology on his works cannot be overstated. His ability to tap into the depths of the human psyche and explore universal themes has thickened his status as a literary genius. His works continue to attract readers, challenging their thinking of reality and provoking deep self-analysis. The term "Kafkaesque" has even entered the English language, describing situations that are absurd. Kafka's personal experiences and inner struggles definitely influenced his works, filling them with a sense of psychological depth and originality. One of the key aspects of Kafka's life that influenced his writing was his strained relationship with his father. Kafka's father was a domineering figure who had high expectations of his son. This complex dynamic is reflected in many of Kafka's works, where

characters deal with authoritarian figures and oppressive systems. For example, in "The Metamorphosis," the protagonist Gregor Samsa wakes up one morning transformed into a monstrous insect-like creature.

This transformation can be seen as a metaphor for Kafka's own feelings of being trapped and dehumanized by his father's expectations from him. Another significant element of Kafka's life that impacted his writing was his struggle with his own identity and sense of self. Kafka, being of Jewish descent, often felt like an outsider in the primarily anti-Semitic society of his time. This feeling of alienation is evident in many of his works, such as "The Trial" and "The Castle," where characters find themselves caught in absurd and wandering bureaucracies. These narratives can be interpreted as reflections of Kafka's own experiences of being deprived and struggling to find a sense of belonging to a system that he can rely on.

Kafka's struggle with anxiety and existential fears also found their way into his writings. His works often explore themes of isolation, guilt, and the inherent absurdity of existence. In "The Trial," the protagonist Josef K. is arrested and put on trial for an unknown crime, showcasing the random nature of the judicial system. This narrative can be seen as a display of Kafka's own anxieties and fears about the unpredictability of life and the lack of control over one's own fortune. Furthermore, Kafka's struggles with his own writing and the fear of judgment are seen in his works. He instructed his friend, Max Brod, to burn all his unpublished manuscripts after his death. The delayed publication of Kafka's works against his wishes speaks to his own self-doubt and fear of being misunderstood or rejected. This fear of judgment is shown in many of his works, where characters face inspection and criticism from faceless and incomprehensible authorities.

Kafka's relationships with women played a significant role in his life and influenced his writings. While Kafka had several important relationships with women, his relationships were often marked by complexities and difficulties, which found their way into his works. One notable example is Kafka's relationship with Felice Bauer. They had an on-again, off-again engagement that lasted for several years. Kafka's letters to Felice reveal his deep insecurities and anxieties about intimacy and commitment. These themes are reflected in his novella, "The Judgment," where the protagonist struggles with feelings of guilt and the pressure of societal expectations in his relationships. Another influential woman in Kafka's life was Milena Jesenská, with whom he had passionate but ultimately dead results. Kafka's letters to Milena showcase his longing for connection and his desire for emotional intimacy. This longing is mirrored in his story, "The Hunger Artist," where the protagonist's desire for his art becomes a metaphor for Kafka's own hunger for love and understanding. Kafka's relationship with his sister, Ottla, also had a profound impact on his writings. They shared a close bond, and Kafka often sought comfort and support from her. This relationship is reflected in his story, "The Metamorphosis," where the main character's transformation isolates him from his family. The strained dynamics and the sense of alienation in the story can be seen as a reflection of Kafka's own complex familial relationships. It is important to note that while Kafka's relationships with women influenced his writings, his portrayal of female characters is often mysterious and open to interpretation. His female characters, such as Grete in "The Metamorphosis" or Leni in "The Trial," can be seen as symbols of societal expectations, desire, or even as representations of Kafka's own internal struggles.

Kafka's personality is an interesting topic to explore. While it is challenging to fully understand an individual's personality based only on their writings, we can get some insights into Kafka's personality through his works and the accounts of those who knew him. Kafka was known to be an introverted and self remarking man. He had a habit to be reserved and withdrawn, often hunting for peace and harmony over social meetings. This introverted nature is reflected in his writing style, which delves deep into the inner workings of the human mind. Kafka also exhibited a strong sense of self-doubt and insecurity. He was known to be highly self-critical and struggled with feelings of dissatisfaction. This self-doubt is evident in his characters, who often find themselves trapped in oppressive and absurd situations, mirroring Kafka's own internal conflicts. Furthermore, Kafka was known to be a highly sensitive and strange individual. He had a keen awareness of the suffering and struggles of others, which is reflected in his compassionate portrayal of characters who are trapped in oppressive systems or face existential situations.

It is important to note that personality is a complex and wide aspect of an individual, and we can only gain limited insights into Kafka's personality through his writings. However, his works do provide glimpses into his introverted nature, self-doubt, and humane nature. Ultimately, Kafka's personality is a subject of interpretation, and different readers may have different opinions on his psychological setup. The historical context of Germany during Kafka's lifetime, including World War I and its aftermath, did have an impact on Kafka's psychology and is reflected in his texts. Kafka lived through a time of great social and political disturbance, which undoubtedly influenced his perspective and writing. One example of this influence can be seen in Kafka's novel, "The Trial." The story follows the protagonist, Josef K. who is arrested and put on trial without being informed of the charges

against him. The oppressive and absurd nature of the legal system depicted in the novel can be seen as a reflection of the chaotic and unpredictable environment of Kafka's time, where individuals could be subjected to random authority and injustice.

Additionally, Kafka's short story, "In the Penal Colony," explores themes of violence, power, and the dehumanizing effects of war. The story takes place in a penal colony where a complex and cruel execution device is used. This can be seen as a narration on the dehumanization and brutality of war and the systems that control it. Kafka's works often delve into themes of existential loss, isolation, and the loss of individual agency, which can be connected to the disturbed times he lived in. The uncertainty and disappointment that characterized Germany during this period likely influenced Kafka's exploration of these themes.

2.2 PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM THEORY- HENRY JAMES

Henry James, a renowned American writer, delved into the complexities of the human mind through his Psychological Theory, often explored in his essays and novels. At its core, James's theory revolves around the intricacies of consciousness, perception, and the inner workings of the human psyche. He believed that individuals are built by their experiences, emotions, and internal conflicts, which influence their thoughts and actions.

James explored the concept of "stream of consciousness," emphasizing the continuous flow of thoughts and feelings within the mind. He argued that our perception of reality is

subjective, shaped by our unique perspectives and psychological states. In his essay, James might discuss how individuals interpret the world around them based on their subconscious desires, fears, and biases. Furthermore, James examined the role of introspection and self-awareness in understanding human behavior. He believed that individuals often struggle to fully understand their own motives and needs, resulting in inner conflicts and moral problems. Through self-analysis, individuals can gain insight into their subconscious powers and achieve greater self-understanding. James also delved into the influence of society and culture on the psyche, highlighting how external factors shape our identities and behaviors. He explored themes of conformity, social expectations, and the tensions between individual choices and societal norms.

Overall, James's Psychological Theory offers a nuanced perspective on the complexities of human nature, emphasizing the interplay between consciousness, perception, and societal influences. Through his essays and writings, he encourages readers to explore the depths of the human psyche and reflect on the forces that form our thoughts, emotions, and actions. Psychological realism provides readers with a deeper understanding of characters and their experiences. It allows us to see the world through their eyes and identify with their struggles. This movement has had a significant impact on literature, influencing many writers to explore the complexities of the human mind.

Psychological realism is important while reading a text because it adds depth and complexity to the characters. It allows us to connect with them on a deeper level by understanding their thoughts, emotions, and motivations. By exploring the inner workings of characters' minds, psychological realism helps us relate to their experiences and see the world from their

perspective. This makes the story more interesting and connecting, as we can better understand the choices they make and the impact those choices have on their lives. It also allows us to reflect on our own thoughts and emotions, releasing empathy and a greater appreciation for the complexities of human nature. Overall, psychological realism enhances our reading experience by bringing the characters to life and making their stories more meaningful.

Chapter 3: UNLOCKING KAFKA'S INNER WORLD THROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM

World War I was going on during Kafka's time. He lived from 1883 to 1924, and World War I took place from 1914 to 1918. Kafka's works, including "Metamorphosis," were influenced by the turbulent times he lived in, which included the war and its aftermath. The themes of isolation, despair, and the absurdity of existence that Kafka explores in his writing can be seen as reflections of the uncertainty and confusions of the era. Germany's role in World War I originated from its desires for regional dominance, competition with other European powers, and its alliance system. As for the blame placed on Jews for economic failures, it's important to note that anti-Semitic sentiments existed long before World War I and were deeply rooted in European societies. Jews were often viewed as outsiders and often blamed for various social and economic issues. During times of economic hardship, such as the aftermath of World War I, these damages were often fused as people searched for someone to blame.

In Germany, after the defeat in World War I, the Treaty of Versailles imposed heavy compensation and economic sanctions on the country. This led to hyperinflation, unemployment, and general economic turmoil. Some elements within German society, including certain political factions, sought to exploit these conditions by promoting anti-Semitic propaganda, blaming Jews for Germany's economic failure. By blaming Jews, these groups aimed to distract attention from the failures of the government and redirect popular anger towards a target. This blaming contributed to the rise of anti-Semitic movements, making the way for the atrocities committed against Jews during the Holocaust in World War II. The Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war, imposed harsh compensation on Germany, exacerbating economic instability and providing fertile ground for extremist ideologies like Nazism to rise. During World War I and its immediate aftermath, there were instances of violence and killings targeting Jews in Germany, although it was not on the scale of the systematic genocide that occurred during World War II.

One notable event was the pogrom in Lwów (Lviv) in 1918, which was part of the confusion following the downfall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In this pogrom, which occurred in present-day Ukraine but involved German forces, dozens of Jews were killed and many more were injured. Additionally, there were incidents of violence and anti-Semitic attacks committed by nationalist and extremist groups in Germany during this time. However, these acts were not part of a systematic campaign of extermination like the Holocaust in World War II. Overall, while Jews in Germany faced discrimination, violence, and persecution during World War I and its aftermath, it did not reach the level of organized mass murder seen in the Holocaust. During World War I and in its aftermath, Jews in Germany faced various forms of

discrimination, although it was not as extreme as what occurred during World War II. Some of the unfair measures and punishments included:

3.1 ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

The German government and various political parties propagated anti-Semitic ideologies, blaming Jews for Germany's economic and social problems. Social Exclusion: Jews were often excluded from certain professions, educational institutions, and social clubs. They faced barriers to advancement and connectivity into German society.

3.2 Legal Discrimination: Laws were imposed to limit the rights of Jews, such as restrictions on property ownership, marriage, and citizenship. These laws aimed to separate Jews from the rest of society and decline their economic and social strength.

3.3 Scapegoating: Jews were scapegoated for many reasons, including the loss of World War I and subsequent economic hardships. This scapegoating charged resentment and violence against Jewish communities.

3.4 Violence and Killing: While not as widespread as during World War II, there were instances of violence and killing Jews during World War I and its aftermath. These attacks were often forced by anti-Semitic propaganda and economic chaos. Overall, while the discrimination and persecution of Jews during World War I in Germany laid the preparations

for later atrocities, it was not as extreme as what occurred during the Holocaust in World War II.

3.5 Censorship of Subversive Literature: during World War I and the subsequent Weimar Republic era, there were censorship measures imposed by the German government. Subversive literature, which included writings critical of the government, military, or the war effort, was often banned or censored. This censorship was part of the broader effort to maintain morale, suppress dissent, and control public opinion during wartime. Writers who produced works considered subversive or unpatriotic faced persecution, imprisonment, or exile. However, despite these restrictions, some subversive literature still managed to circulate underground or in secret publications.

The effects of World War I on literature, including the works of Franz Kafka, were profound. Kafka's writing often reflects the anxieties, alienation, and absurdity of the modern world, which were exacerbated by the war's destruction and societal chaos. The war likely influenced Kafka's themes of existentialism, bureaucracy, and the individual's struggle against oppressive systems, as seen in works like "The Trial" and "The Metamorphosis." Additionally, the war's aftermath may have intensified Kafka's sense of isolation and the pointless search for meaning, which are recurring ideas in his writing. Kafka's written works were banned in Germany during the war atmosphere for various reasons, primarily due to his subversive style of writing and the themes he explored, which challenged established norms and authority figures. Here's an elaboration on how and why Kafka's works were banned, focusing on his subversive style:

3.6 Critique of Bureaucracy: Kafka's writing often critiques the bureaucratic systems of his time, portraying them as absurd, dehumanizing, and oppressive. In works like "The Trial" and "The Castle," he depicts faceless bureaucracies wielding immense power over individuals, who struggle to and understand these systems. This critique of authority could have been seen as terrifying by the German government during wartime, as it challenged the rightfulness of their own bureaucratic structures.

3.7 Alienation and Isolation: Kafka's protagonists often experience feelings of alienation and isolation, displaying the chaos and existential worry of modern life. This theme of individual alienation could have been taken as dangerous during a time when national unity and loyalty were emphasized, as it questioned the collective identity and solidarity promoted by the government.

3.8 Subversion of Traditional Narratives: Kafka's narrative style often defies traditional storytelling conventions, with ambiguous plots, unreliable narrators, and unresolved endings. His works challenge readers to question the nature of reality and the reliability of perception, unsettling the established order of meaning and truth. This subversion of narrative norms could have been seen as destabilizing during a period when propaganda and censorship were used to control public discourse and shape perceptions of the war.

3.9 Existential Themes: Kafka's exploration of existential themes, such as the absurdity of existence, the search for meaning, and the inevitability of death, resonated with the existential crisis brought about by the war. However, his portrayal of these themes in a manner that

defied easy interpretation or resolution could have been perceived as demoralizing by authorities wishing to maintain the control.

Overall, Kafka's subversive style of writing challenged the established order and norms of society, making his works potentially fearful to authorities during the war atmosphere. The themes of bureaucracy, alienation, existential worries, and narrative subversion found in his writing were at odds with the values and objectives promoted by the German government at the time, leading to the banning of his works in Germany.

Franz Kafka, the author of "The Trial," was deeply influenced by his own experiences and the socio-political climate of his time. While "The Trial" doesn't directly address the War or the plight of Jews, Kafka's personal background and the historical context can shed light on the themes of injustice and existential unrest portrayed in the novel. Kafka's brothers who died in World War I could be seen as symbolic of the senseless loss and absurdity of war, themes that revolve throughout "The Trial." The protagonist, Joseph K., who is arrested and tried without being informed of his crime, represents the individual caught in the machinery of a senseless and faceless, bureaucratic system—an experience that Kafka himself might have felt closely to living in a society where justice seemed arbitrary and oppressive and an unfair system existed .

The psychological reasons behind Kafka's exploration of these themes likely stem from his own sense of alienation and disconnection with society. As a Jew living in Prague, Kafka would have been acutely aware of the discrimination and injustice faced by his community,

which could have informed his portrayal of injustice in "The Trial." In this way, Kafka's personal experiences, including the loss of his brothers in war and his identity as a Jew in a hostile environment, may have contributed to his exploration of themes related to injustice, guilt, and the absurdity of human existence in "The Trial." Franz Kafka's personal experiences often influenced his writing, and his brother's death in World War I likely had a profound impact on his worldview. In "The Trial," the protagonist, K, finds himself caught in a nightmarish and incomprehensible legal system, much like the chaos and absurdity Kafka may have perceived in the world around him. K's struggle against an oppressive and irrational bureaucracy reflects Kafka's own sense of alienation and helplessness in the face of societal forces beyond his control, echoing the sense of loss and futility he may have felt after his brother's death in war. Both experiences speak to themes of existential dread, powerlessness, and the individual's struggle against impersonal and often indifferent forces.

Franz Kafka's personal experiences often influenced his writing, and this can be seen in "The Castle." In real life, Kafka faced obstacles due to the war atmosphere in Germany, which prevented him from joining the military. Similarly, in "The Castle," the protagonist, known only as K, encounters bureaucratic obstacles and struggles to gain access to the Castle, a symbol of authority and power. This parallels Kafka's own frustrations with the bureaucratic systems he comes across in his life. K's pursuit of a land surveyor job reflects Kafka's own struggles to find his place and purpose in society, mirroring the themes of alienation and existential angst present in Kafka's own life. The similarities between Kafka's real-life experience with military service and the protagonist K's struggle to obtain a land surveyor job in "The Castle" are interesting. Firstly, both Kafka and K face bureaucratic obstacles in their pursuits. Kafka faced difficulties due to the war atmosphere, which prevented him from joining the military. Similarly, K faces endless bureaucratic barriers in his attempts to gain employment as a land surveyor in the Castle.

Secondly, both Kafka and K experience a sense of alienation and displacement in their respective journeys. Kafka's inability to join the military left him feeling disconnected from the societal norms and expectations of the time. Likewise, K's quest for the land surveyor job symbolizes his search for belonging and acceptance within the puzzling world of the Castle. Finally, both Kafka's real-life struggles and K's fictional quest underscore themes of existential angst, powerlessness, and the absurdity of bureaucratic systems. Kafka's personal experiences with societal pressures and institutional barriers undoubtedly informed his portrayal of K's futile efforts in "The Castle," reflecting his own existential dilemmas and the pervasive sense of disillusionment present in his literary works.

Kafka's fears and anxieties, both personal and societal, are deeply intertwined with his writings. His fear of not publishing his books and his request to burn his works to Max Brod reflect his intense anxiety about his own literary legacy and his fear of being forgotten or misunderstood. This fear can be seen as a metaphor for the existential fear and threat many individuals face about their own mortality of their contributions to the world.

Similarly, Kafka's works often explore themes of oppression, alienation, and the struggle of the individual against an oppressive system. In the context of the war atmosphere and political turn in Germany during Kafka's lifetime, these themes take on added significance. The fear of death and punishment from Germany's authoritarian regime can be paralleled with the existential fear felt by Kafka's protagonists as they confront the absurdity and injustice of the systems they find themselves lost within.

Kafka's writings serve as a reflection of the fears and anxieties of his time, displaying both personal and collective struggles with mortality, oppression, and the search for meaning in a chaotic and unjust world. In Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis," the protagonist, Gregor Samsa, waking up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant insect, serves as a powerful symbol reflecting several themes, including societal alienation, the dehumanizing effects of capitalism, and existential angst. While it's speculative to directly link the novella to Kafka's views on war and injustice to Jews, we can explore the themes of transformation, isolation, and existential worry with broader historical and social contexts.

3.10 Symbolism of Transformation: Gregor's sudden transformation into an insect can be interpreted as a metaphor for the loss of identity and humanity experienced by individuals marginalized or oppressed by society. Just as Gregor's physical appearance changes drastically, so too do his relationships and sense of self. This mirrors the profound transformations undergone by individuals during times of societal destruction, such as war or killing.

3.11 Alienation and Isolation: Throughout the novella, Gregor experiences increasing isolation from his family and society at large. His insect form becomes a barrier to communication and understanding, leading to his gradual abandonment by those closest to him. This sense of alienation mirrors the experiences of marginalized groups facing discrimination and persecution, such as the Jews in Kafka's historical context.

3.12 Dehumanization and Capitalism: Kafka critiques the dehumanizing effects of modern capitalism through Gregor's transformation. As Gregor becomes increasingly unable to work and fulfill his societal obligations, he is reduced to a mere commodity, valued only for his ability to generate income for his family. This reflects the way in which capitalist systems can deprive individuals of their humanity and reduce them to mere economic units.

Existential Angst: Gregor's existential anguish is palpable throughout the novella, as he grapples with the meaninglessness of his existence and the futility of his efforts to connect with others. His transformation into an insect serves as a metaphor for the absurdity of human existence, highlighting the inherent absurdity and chaos of life itself. Kafka's life and his literary works are deeply intertwined, and his personal experiences often find reflection in his writing.

The Trial: Kafka's Experience with Bureaucracy:

Kafka worked in the insurance industry, where he encountered the bureaucratic labyrinth that he later depicted in 'The Trial.' Kafka's letters and diaries often express his frustrations with the bureaucratic nature of his job and society.

Influence of Kafka's Relationship with His Father:

Kafka's strained relationship with his authoritarian father mirrors the protagonist Josef K's struggle against an inscrutable and oppressive authority figure. Kafka's letters to his father and his autobiographical writings reveal the complexities of their relationship, which likely influenced his portrayal of paternal authority in 'The Trial.'

Sense of Alienation and Absurdity:

Kafka's feelings of alienation and existential angst are reflected in Josef K's bewildering journey through a surreal legal system. Kafka's own diaries and letters document his struggles with feelings of isolation and his search for meaning in an indifferent world. Social Commentary on Justice and Guilt: 'The Trial' reflects Kafka's critique of the justice system and the arbitrary nature of guilt. Kafka's own experiences with the legal system, including his work as a law clerk, provided first hand insight into the flaws and injustices of the legal process.

Metamorphosis: Kafka's Struggles with Identity and Isolation:

Gregor Samsa's transformation into a giant insect can be interpreted as a metaphor for Kafka's own feelings of alienation and otherness. Evidence: Kafka's letters and diaries reveal his struggles with self-doubt, insecurity, and a sense of being fundamentally different from others.

Family Dynamics and Conflict:

The strained relationship between Gregor and his family mirrors Kafka's own complex familial relationships and feelings of guilt. Evidence: Kafka's letters to his family members, particularly his father, depict the tension and emotional distance that characterized their interactions. Themes of Suffering and Sacrifice: 'Metamorphosis' explores themes of sacrifice and the burden of responsibility, reflecting Kafka's own sense of obligation to his family and the sacrifices he made for them. As seen in Kafka's letters show his conflicted feelings about his role as a provider for his family and the impact it took on his personal and creative life.

Social Commentary on Work and Identity: Gregor's transformation and subsequent ostracization from society highlight Kafka's critique of the dehumanizing effects of modern labor and the way work defines one's identity. As seen in Kafka's own experiences as a struggling writer working in a bureaucratic job informed his portrayal of the alienating effects of work on the individual.

The Castle: Kafka's Sense of Exile and Displacement: The protagonist K's futile quest to gain access to the castle mirrors Kafka's own feelings of exile and displacement within society. As seen in Kafka's letters and diaries express his longing for acceptance and belonging, as well as his anger with the barriers that prevented him from fully being involved in society.

Themes of Powerlessness and Futility:

'The Castle' explores themes of powerlessness and the absurdity of human existence, reflecting Kafka's own existential despair. Kafka's letters and diaries reveal his struggles with feelings of futility and his search for meaning in a world that often seemed indifferent to his efforts. Critique of Authority and Bureaucracy: The bureaucratic obstacles that K encounters in his quest for recognition echo Kafka's own frustrations with the impersonal and arbitrary nature of authority. Kafka's letters and diaries document his encounters with bureaucratic inefficiency and his helplessness towards hierarchical power structures.

Search for Redemption and Salvation:

K's search for redemption and acceptance in the castle reflects Kafka's own longing for spiritual fulfillment and transcendence. Kafka's letters and diaries reveal his preoccupation with questions of religion and salvation, as well as his desire for a sense of purpose beyond the confines of everyday life. It's an interesting observation about Kafka's choice to keep the names of his characters in "The Castle" starting with the letter 'K', which is also the first letter of his own name. While it's difficult to determine Kafka's exact intention, there are a few possible explanations for this recurring motif. One interpretation is that Kafka may have used the letter 'K' as a way to create a sense of unity and interconnectedness within his literary world. By giving his characters names that start with the same letter as his own, he could be emphasizing their connection to him and his own experiences.

Another perspective is that the repeated use of 'K' names could be a reflection of Kafka's own struggles with identity and alienation. The characters in his novels often face similar themes of isolation and bureaucracy, and the shared initial could represent their shared struggles within a larger system. It's worth noting that Kafka was known for his use of symbolism and allegory in his works. The use of 'K' names could be seen as part of his broader exploration of themes such as identity, power, and the individual's struggle against oppressive systems.

The potential psychological reasons behind Kafka's choice to name his novel characters with names starting with the letter 'K', which is also the initial letter of his own name. While we can't know for certain what Kafka's specific intentions were, there are a few possible

explanations based on psychological analysis. One interpretation is that Kafka may have used this naming convention as a form of self-representation or self-reflection. By giving his characters names that mirror his own initial, he could be exploring aspects of his own identity and personal experiences through their stories. It could be a way for Kafka to project himself into his fictional world and examine his own struggles and anxieties.

Another perspective is that the repetition of 'K' names could be a manifestation of Kafka's unconscious mind. Psychologists often emphasize the significance of recurring symbols or patterns in an artist's work, as these can provide insight into their psyche. The repetition of 'K' names might indicate a fixation or preoccupation with certain themes or ideas that Kafka was grappling with internally. It could symbolize the characters' shared experiences or their connection to a larger narrative or system.

Ultimately, the true psychological motivations behind Kafka's choice may remain a mystery. However, delving into these possibilities allows us to gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of his work and the potential psychological development of his creative process.

Chapter 4: THE TITLES OF KAFKA'S TEXTS : A METAPHOR

"The Castle" by Franz Kafka is a masterpiece of psychological realism, utilizing its metaphorical title to delve into the complexities of human existence and the twisting nature of societal structures. At its core, the castle represents not just a physical construction but a symbol of power, authority, and the elusive pursuit of truth and belonging.

In Kafka's narrative, the castle stands as a towering presence, both literal and metaphorical, dominating the landscape and the psyche of the protagonist, K. Its impenetrable walls and mysterious symbolize to the forces of bureaucracy, alienation, and existential angst that pervade modern society. Through K's futile attempts to gain entry into the castle and its enigmatic workings, Kafka explores themes of powerlessness, absurdity, and the inherent struggle for meaning in a world governed by unseen forces.

Psychologically, the castle mirrors the inner conflict and existential crisis faced by K and, by extension, by humanity as a whole. Like the castle, the human mind is a complex and often impenetrable fortress, filled with hidden chambers, secret passages, and unsolved conflicts. K's urge to open the mysteries of the castle reflects the human desire for understanding, validation, and a sense of purpose in the face of overwhelming uncertainty.

Moreover, the castle serves as a potent metaphor for the oppressive structures of authority and social hierarchy that govern human interactions. Within its walls, K encounters a bureaucratic labyrinth populated by faceless functionaries and arbitrary rules, where individual agency is taken by impersonal systems of control. This Kafkaesque portrayal of institutional power and its dehumanizing effects revolve with the psychological realities of modern life, where individuals often find themselves lost in systems beyond their comprehension or control.

In this sense, "The Castle" operates as a profound exploration of the human condition, offering insights into the nature of identity, agency, and the search for meaning in an indifferent universe. Through its rich symbolism and psychological depth, Kafka's novel continues to resonate with readers, inviting reflection on the complexities of existence and the enduring quest for self-understanding and liberation from the imprisoning of societal structures.

"The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka is a profound exploration of existential themes through the lens of psychological realism. At its core, the title serves as a metaphor for the protagonist Gregor Samsa's profound transformation and its implications on his psyche and identity. In the novel, Gregor awakens one morning to find himself transformed into a giant insect. This physical metamorphosis is not merely a fantastical event but serves as a powerful allegory for the human condition. Through Gregor's transformation, Kafka delves into the complexities of identity, alienation, and the search for meaning in a seemingly absurd world.

Psychological realism in "The Metamorphosis" lies in Kafka's meticulous portrayal of Gregor's inner tensions and the psychological effects of his transformation. As Gregor grapples with his new form, he experiences a profound sense of alienation and dissatisfaction from both himself and his family. His physical metamorphosis displays his inner sense of displacement and existential angst, portraying the disconnect between his external appearance and internal reality.

Furthermore, the title "The Metamorphosis" suggests not only Gregor's physical transformation but also the metamorphosis of his relationships and perceptions. As Gregor's family reacts to his transformation with shock, horror, and ultimately indifference, Kafka explores themes of isolation and the breakdown of familial bonds. Gregor's metamorphosis produces a chain reaction of psychological transformations within his family, forcing them to confess their own desires, fears, and limitations.

Moreover, the title "The Metamorphosis" encapsulates the broader human experience of undergoing profound change and transformation. Kafka's novel serves as a reflection of the human psyche's capacity to adapt, evolve, and transcend its limitations in the face of misfortune. Through Gregor's journey, Kafka invites readers to contemplate the nature of identity, agency, and the search for authenticity in a world filled with ambiguity and uncertainty. In conclusion, "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka is a masterful work of psychological realism that uses the metaphor of physical transformation to explore profound existential themes. Through Gregor's metamorphosis, Kafka delves into the complexities of identity, alienation, and the search for meaning in a world without clear answers. The title serves as a sad reminder of the human capacity for change and adaptation in the face of life's constant and unpredictable transformations.

Ultimately, "The Castle" stands as a towering achievement of psychological realism, using its metaphorical title to illuminate the darkest recesses of the human psyche and the enigmatic landscapes of the modern world. Through its exploration of power, authority, and the search for truth, Kafka's novel remains a timeless meditation on the complexities of the human

experience and the perennial struggle for self-realization in the face of seemingly unending obstacles.

In Franz Kafka's "The Trial," the title serves as a multifaceted metaphor that operates on several levels, particularly in the realm of psychological realism. The novel delves deep into the human psyche, exploring themes of guilt, alienation, and the absurdity of bureaucracy, all of which are together woven into the metaphorical significance of the trial.

At its core, the trial symbolizes the existential journey of the protagonist, Josef K., as he navigates through the complexities of his own mind and society's expectations. It represents the universal human experience of confronting the unknown and the uncontrollable forces that shape our lives. The trial becomes a metaphor for the internal struggle against forces beyond our comprehension, mirroring the inherent ambiguity and unpredictability of existence itself.

Psychologically, the trial reflects the inner turmoil and guilt that Josef K. grapples with throughout the novel. Despite his insistence on his innocence, he is constantly plagued by a sense of culpability, an underlying awareness of his own moral failings. This existential guilt manifests itself in the form of the trial, an externalization of Josef K.'s internal conflict and self-judgment. In this sense, the trial serves as a metaphorical representation of the human condition, wherein individuals are perpetually on trial, both by society and by their own conscience.

Furthermore, the trial embodies the Kafkaesque theme of the absurdity of bureaucracy and the dehumanizing nature of institutional power. As Josef K. becomes ensnared in a labyrinthine legal system characterized by arbitrary rules and faceless authority figures, the trial takes on a surreal quality, blurring the line between reality and nightmare. It becomes a metaphor for the absurdity of modern life, where individuals are subjected to a senseless and indifferent machinery of control.

Moreover, the trial serves as a metaphor for the alienation and estrangement experienced by Josef K. and by extension, by all individuals in a modern, impersonal society. As he struggles to navigate through a world that seems to conspire against him, Josef K. becomes increasingly isolated from those around him, unable to forge genuine connections or find a sense of belonging. The trial becomes a symbol of his existential isolation, a reflection of the profound sense of alienation that pervades Kafka's work.

In conclusion, the metaphorical title "The Trial" shows the psychological realism of Kafka's novel, serving as a powerful symbol of the human condition. Through its exploration of guilt, alienation, and the absurdity of bureaucracy, the trial becomes a metaphor for the existential journey of the individual, as they confront the complexities of their own mind and the enigmatic forces that shape their lives.

Kafka's masterful use of metaphor is a hallmark of his writing, permeating his works with layers of meaning and psychological depth. Metaphor, as a literary device, allows Kafka to

convey complex ideas, emotions, and existential themes in a manner that transcends the literal. Throughout his oeuvre, from "The Metamorphosis" to "The Trial" and beyond, Kafka employs metaphor to explore the human condition, alienation, absurdity, and the struggle for identity and agency.

Moreover, Kafka's metaphorical language is often imbued with religious and mythological undertones, adding another layer of complexity to his work. In "The Castle," for instance, the metaphor of the unreachable castle symbolizes the elusive nature of truth, salvation, or meaning. The protagonist's futile attempts to gain access to the castle mirror humanity's perennial quest for transcendence and understanding in the face of an indifferent universe. Kafka's use of metaphor is not merely ornamental; it is integral to his exploration of existential themes and the human psyche. By employing metaphorical language, Kafka invites readers to engage with his texts on multiple levels, encouraging them to grapple with the profound questions and contradictions of existence. Through his masterful use of metaphor, Kafka's works continue to resonate with readers, offering insights into the complexities of the human condition and the enigmatic nature of reality.

Chapter 5: "FROM KAFKAESQUE ALLEGORIES TO SYMBOLIC EXISTENTIALISM: A JOURNEY THROUGH KAFKA'S NOVELS"

In "Metamorphosis," Kafka employs allegory to explore themes of alienation, identity, and the absurdity of existence. The story can be interpreted in various ways, including as a reflection of Kafka's own struggles with his identity and the oppressive atmosphere of his time, particularly the socio-political upheavals and World War I.

5.1 Alienation and Identity: The protagonist, Gregor Samsa, wakes up one day to find himself transformed into a monstrous insect. This physical metamorphosis can be seen as a metaphor for the alienation Kafka felt from himself and society. Kafka, like Gregor, grappled with his own sense of identity and belonging, often feeling like an outsider in his own life.

5.2 Family Dynamics: The treatment Gregor receives from his family after his transformation reflects Kafka's own strained relationships, particularly with his overbearing father. Kafka's father figure was domineering and disapproving, much like Gregor's father in the story. This strained dynamic mirrors the author's own struggles with authority figures and familial expectations.

5.3 Socio-political Commentary: The oppressive atmosphere in "Metamorphosis" can be seen as a reflection of the larger socio-political climate of Kafka's time. The story was written during a period of social and political unrest, with World War I looming large. The sense of existential dread and absurdity in the story mirrors the uncertainty and chaos of the war era.

5.4 Isolation and Estrangement: Gregor's transformation leads to his isolation from society, highlighting themes of loneliness and estrangement. Similarly, Kafka often felt isolated and disconnected from those around him, struggling to find meaning and connection in a world that seemed indifferent to his existence.

Overall, Kafka's use of allegory in "Metamorphosis" allows for multiple interpretations, including a reflection of his own life experiences and the turbulent atmosphere of the time in which he lived. The story serves as a poignant exploration of existential themes that continue to resonate with readers.

Kafka's "The Castle" is rich in symbolism, reflecting both his personal struggles and the turbulent historical context of his time. One key element is the castle itself, which represents bureaucracy, authority, and the elusive nature of power. This can be seen as a reflection of Kafka's own feelings of alienation and powerlessness within the bureaucratic structures of his society, as well as the oppressive atmosphere of early 20th-century Europe, marked by authoritarianism and social instability. The protagonist, K., can be interpreted as Kafka himself, navigating through a labyrinthine bureaucracy in search of acceptance and belonging. His futile attempts to gain access to the castle mirror Kafka's own struggles with identity and societal expectations. Additionally, K.'s constant encounters with absurd and arbitrary rules reflect Kafka's perception of the absurdity and irrationality of the world around him.

The character of Klammer, a mysterious figure associated with the castle, can be seen as a representation of authority and the ruling class. His enigmatic presence and ambiguous motives highlight the inscrutable nature of power and hierarchy, echoing Kafka's own experiences with authority figures in his life. Furthermore, the village surrounding the castle symbolizes society at large, with its rigid social hierarchy and collective indifference to individual suffering. This reflects Kafka's observations of the dehumanizing effects of modern society and the sense of isolation it can engender.

The war atmosphere that Kafka grew up in adds another layer of complexity to the novel's symbolism. The uncertainty, fear, and chaos of war are reflected in the atmosphere of paranoia and unease that permeates the narrative. This can be seen as a commentary on the fragility of civilization and the human capacity for cruelty and violence. In conclusion, Kafka's "The Castle" is a deeply symbolic work that reflects both the author's personal struggles and the historical context in which he lived. Through its intricate imagery and allegorical narrative, the novel explores themes of power, alienation, and the absurdity of human existence, offering a flaming critique of bureaucracy, authority, and societal norms.

In "The Trial," Kafka delves deep into existential themes, echoing his own sense of alienation and absurdity in the face of an incomprehensible and indifferent world. The protagonist, Josef K., finds himself trapped in a labyrinthine bureaucracy, facing a trial he knows nothing about, much like Kafka's own struggles with bureaucracy and authority figures in his life. This mirrors Kafka's own experiences working in an insurance company, where he often felt like a cog in a machine, stripped of agency and meaning. Furthermore, the atmosphere of war and political upheaval during Kafka's lifetime undoubtedly influenced his existentialist themes. The chaos and uncertainty of the times would have intensified Kafka's feelings of isolation and existential angst, which are reflected in the fragmented and surreal narrative of "The Trial."

Kafka's use of existentialism in "The Trial" serves to explore the absurdity of human existence, the futility of trying to find meaning in a world that seems determined to thwart our efforts, and the overwhelming sense of alienation that comes from being at odds with society and oneself. Through Josef K.'s futile attempts to navigate the opaque and irrational legal system, Kafka exposes the absurdity of human institutions and the arbitrary nature of power. In essence, Kafka's own life experiences, coupled with the tumultuous historical context of his time, provide a rich backdrop for his exploration of existential themes in "The Trial." The novel serves as a poignant reflection on the human condition, highlighting the absurdity and uncertainty inherent in existence.

Chapter 6: CONCLUSION

In examining Kafka's works, particularly "The Trial," "The Metamorphosis," and "The Castle," through the lens of psychological realism, one delves into the intricate layers of Kafka's inner world, his existential angst, and the socio-political turmoil that permeated his era. Through meticulous analysis of character psyche, narrative structure, and symbolism, it becomes evident that Kafka employed psychological realism as a tool to explore the human condition amidst the absurdity of existence, echoing his own struggles and anxieties.

Firstly, "The Trial" epitomizes Kafka's exploration of psychological realism, immersing readers in the protagonist Josef K.'s descent into a nightmarish legal labyrinth. Through Kafka's portrayal of K.'s inner turmoil, paranoia, and existential dread, one witnesses a reflection of Kafka's own anxieties regarding bureaucracy, alienation, and the pervasive sense

of guilt prevalent in his society. The absurdity of the trial mirrors Kafka's disillusionment with the justice system and the arbitrary nature of authority, a theme exacerbated by the oppressive atmosphere of the wartime period Kafka lived in.

Similarly, "The Metamorphosis" offers a profound insight into Kafka's psyche through the surreal transformation of Gregor Samsa into a giant insect. As Gregor grapples with his newfound physical form and the ensuing isolation from his family and society, Kafka delves into themes of alienation, identity crisis, and existential dread. Gregor's psychological state mirrors Kafka's own feelings of inadequacy, estrangement, and the overwhelming burden of societal expectations, exacerbated by the turbulent times of World War I and its aftermath.

Moreover, "The Castle" further explores Kafka's inner world through the protagonist K.'s futile quest for recognition and belonging in the face of an elusive bureaucratic system represented by the Castle. K.'s psychological journey, rife with frustration, ambiguity, and existential questioning, reflects Kafka's own struggles with authority, existential angst, and the search for meaning amidst chaos. The Castle serves as a metaphor for the insurmountable barriers Kafka faced in navigating the complexities of life and society, mirroring the disarray and uncertainty of the wartime era.

In essence, Kafka's utilization of psychological realism in "The Trial," "The Metamorphosis," and "The Castle" serves as a vehicle for introspection, self-exploration, and existential inquiry. Through his portrayal of characters grappling with inner turmoil, alienation, and absurdity, Kafka invites readers to confront the universal themes of human existence amidst the backdrop of wartime turmoil. Thus, by unravelling Kafka's inner world through the lens

of psychological realism, one gains profound insight into the complexities of the human psyche and the enduring relevance of Kafka's works in understanding the human condition.

6.1 FINDINGS:

6.2 Psychological Realism in Kafka's Works: Kafka's writings often deal with the depths of the human psyche, showcasing characters dealing with existential fear, alienation, and absurdity.

6.3 Influence of Historical Events:

Kafka's life was connected with dark historical events, such as World War I and the rise of totalitarian regimes, which likely influenced his themes of powerlessness and bureaucracy.

6.4 Family Dynamics: Kafka's complex relationship with his family, particularly his overbearing father, Hermann Kafka, is reflected in his portrayal of authoritarian figures and themes of obligation and guilt.

6.5 Evidence from Kafka's Letters and Diaries:

Analysis of Kafka's personal correspondence and diaries provides insights into his inner struggles and isolation, shedding light on the psychological depths of his literary works.

6.6 Literary Techniques:

Kafka's use of surrealism, symbolism, and ambiguity serves to evoke the inner turmoil and existential crises experienced by his characters, contributing to the psychological realism of his narratives.

Overall, by examining Kafka's life experiences, family dynamics, and literary techniques, alongside the historical context of his time, one can gain a richer understanding of the psychological realism that depicts his works.

Universal Themes of Kafka's exploration of themes such as alienation, isolation, bureaucracy, and existential fear stand the test of time and place. In today's busy, technologically-driven world, many individuals deal with feelings of disconnection, anxiety, and a sense of being trapped within oppressive systems. Kafka's portrayal of these themes in his works, such as "The

Metamorphosis" and "The Trial," reflects and portrays the experiences of modern readers.

Complex Characters in Kafka's texts are often complex and lost, struggling with inner conflicts

and difficulties. In contemporary society, where mental health awareness is increasingly emphasized, readers can relate to Kafka's portrayal of characters fighting with their inner demons. The portrayal of characters like Gregor Samsa, Josef K., and K.'s hunt for meaning and

identity resonate with individuals investigating their own psychological struggles.

Critique of Society in Kafka's works serve as a critique of societal structures and norms,

highlighting the absurdity and irrationality of bureaucratic systems and power dynamics. In today's world, where individuals often feel overwhelmed by institutions and social pressures, Kafka's depiction of oppressive societies strikes with readers. The portrayal of characters caught in Kafkaesque situations, where they are subjected to arbitrary rules and faceless authority figures, reflects contemporary concerns about injustice and inequality. Existential fear in Kafka's exploration of existential themes, such as the meaninglessness of existence and the search for motive, resonates with contemporary readers struggling with questions of identity and existential fear. In an era marked by uncertainty and rapid change, Kafka's works offer a moving reflection on the human condition and the struggle to find meaning in a seemingly indifferent universe. Kafka's masterful use of psychological realism, characterized by his realistic portrayal of characters' inner thoughts, fears, and desires, lends his works a timeless relevance. Readers are drawn into the inner worlds of Kafka's characters, experiencing their emotional conflict and existential crises. This psychological depth allows readers to empathize with Kafka's characters and see reflections of their own struggles within them.

Kafka's portrayal of psychological realism resonates with contemporary society and readers by

addressing universal themes, depicting complex characters, critiquing societal structures, exploring existential questions, and employing psychological depth. Through his timeless and deeply resonant works, Kafka continues to attract and provoke readers, offering profound insights into the human condition and the complexities of the modern world.

Kafka's innovative use of psychological realism has had a lasting impact on literature, influencing generations of writers and artists. His ability to delve into the inner workings of the

human mind and portray the complexities of human experience with unparalleled depth and precision has set a benchmark for psychological depth in literature. Writers across genres and cultures continue to draw inspiration from Kafka's techniques, incorporating elements of psychological realism into their own works.

Kafka's themes of alienation, bureaucracy, and the absurdity of modern life remain highly relevant in contemporary society. In an increasingly interconnected and fast-paced world, readers

continue to identify with Kafka's portrayal of individuals trapped within oppressive systems and

struggling to assert their agency. Kafka's works serve as a touching reflection on the dehumanizing effects of modernity and the challenges of dealing with complex social structures.

Kafka's impact extends beyond literature to other disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, and sociology. His exploration of themes such as identity, power dynamics, and the nature of reality has inspired scholars from diverse fields to engage with his works in new and innovative

ways. Kafka's insights into the human condition continue to provoke interdisciplinary dialogue

and provide intellectual inquiry. Kafka's legacy as a literary giant remains undiminished, with his works continuing to be studied,

analyzed, and celebrated worldwide. His ability to capture the essence of human experience with

unparalleled clarity and insight ensures that his works will remain valid and influential for generations to come. Kafka's lasting significance lies not only in his mastery of psychological realism but also in his profound understanding of the human condition and its enduring relevance

to contemporary readers.

Kafka's childhood and early struggles profoundly influenced his writing, showcasing psychological realism in his texts through various themes, motifs, and characterizations.

Kafka's struggles with his Jewish identity and feelings of inadequacy manifest in his characters'

battle for self-discovery and acceptance. Characters like K. in "The Castle" and the protagonist

of "The Hunger Artist" grapple with existential questions of identity and purpose, reflecting Kafka's own inner turmoil. The theme of self-doubt and the search for meaning permeates Kafka's works, adding layers of psychological depth to his portrayal of the human condition. Throughout his life, Kafka battled with various physical and mental health issues, including anxiety and depression. These experiences of illness and psychological distress find expression

in his works, where characters often exhibit symptoms of mental anguish and existential despair.

The pervasive sense of unease and foreboding in Kafka's writing reflects his own struggles with anxiety, lending his texts a sense of psychological realism that resonates with readers who grapple with similar challenges.

One ethical lesson that readers can glean from engaging with Kafka's psychologically rich texts

is empathy. Through empathizing with Kafka's characters, who often find themselves trapped in

surreal and oppressive situations, readers can develop a greater appreciation for the struggles or

others. This heightened empathy can lead to a more compassionate and understanding worldview, encouraging readers to consider the perspectives of those who may be marginalized

or oppressed in society.

Furthermore, reading Kafka's works through a psychological lens can prompt readers to reflect

on their own psychological experiences and existential dilemmas. Kafka's exploration of themes

such as identity, guilt, and the search for meaning can provoke introspection and self-

examination in readers, encouraging them to confront their own fears and uncertainties.

approaching Kafka's works through psychological realism can deepen one's understanding of his

themes and characters, foster empathy and compassion, and give rise to self-reflection and

introspection. Through this engagement, readers can gain valuable insights into the human

condition and develop a more nuanced ethical framework for navigating the complexities of life.

Kafka's characters frequently grapple with existential dilemmas that mirror those faced by

readers in their own lives. By examining these characters' inner struggles and psychological

states, readers can gain insight into their own fears and uncertainties. For example, the

protagonist of "The Metamorphosis," Gregor Samsa, undergoes a profound transformation that

forces him to confront his own identity and place in the world. Readers may relate to Gregor's

feelings of isolation and alienation, promoting them to reflect on their own sense of self and

belonging.

Kafka's portrayal of oppressive and bureaucratic systems can evoke readers' fears of being trapped in a dehumanizing and irrational world. In works such as "The Trial" and "The Castle,"

Kafka depicts characters struggling against faceless institutions and inscrutable authority figures,

highlighting the absurdity and injustice inherent in modern society. Readers may recognize

Parallels between Kafka's fictional worlds and their own experiences of navigating complex social structures and power dynamics, leading them to confront their own anxieties about conformity, control, and powerlessness.

Kafka's use of surreal and dreamlike imagery can tap into readers' subconscious fears and anxieties, prompting them to confront aspects of themselves that they may prefer to ignore or repress. By immersing themselves in Kafka's nightmarish landscapes and bizarre scenarios, readers may uncover hidden fears and insecurities lurking beneath the surface of their consciousness, ultimately leading to greater self-awareness and personal growth.

reading Kafka through a psychological realism lens can widen readers' understanding of their own fears and dilemmas by providing a mirror through which to examine the depths of the human psyche. By empathizing with Kafka's characters, grappling with existential themes, and

confronting surreal imagery, readers can gain insight into their own innermost fears and anxieties, ultimately leading to greater self-awareness and personal development.

Psychological realism fosters a strong bond and connectivity between readers and authors by creating a shared understanding of the complexities of human experience and emotion. This

Literary approach focuses on portraying characters' inner lives, motivations, and psychological

states in a way that feels authentic and relatable to readers. Through this deep exploration of the

human psyche, readers can develop a profound connection with the author and their work for several reasons. Psychological realism allows readers to empathize with characters who grapple

with universal human emotions and dilemmas. By delving into the inner workings of characters'

minds, readers can identify with their struggles, fears, and desires on a deeply personal level.

This identification fosters a sense of connection with the characters and by extension, with the

author who created them.

Psychological realism often portrays everyday situations and interpersonal dynamics with nuance

and authenticity. Readers may recognize elements of their own lives and relationships mirrored

in the author's depiction of human behavior and interaction. This recognition of shared

experiences can create a sense of camaraderie between readers and authors, as they navigate the

complexities of the human condition together.

Through their portrayal of characters' inner lives, authors of psychological realism reveal their

own insights, values, and worldview. Readers gain a deeper understanding of the author's

perspective as they explore the characters' thoughts, feelings, and motivations. This insight

allows readers to form a more intimate connection with the author, as they engage with their

ideas and reflections on life.

Psychological realism has the power to evoke strong emotional responses in readers by tapping

into universal themes and emotions. Whether it's love, loss, longing, or existential angst, readers

may find themselves deeply moved by the raw honesty and emotional depth of the author's

portrayal of human experience. This emotional resonance creates a bond between readers and

authors, as they share in the emotional journey depicted in the text.

psychological realism strengthens the bond and connectivity between readers and authors by

fostering empathy, recognition of shared experiences, insight into the author's perspective, and

emotional resonance. Through the exploration of characters' inner lives and the portrayal of

universal human emotions and dilemmas, readers can develop a profound connection with the

author and their work, enriching their reading experience and deepening their understanding of

the human condition.

Reading Kafka's works through a lens of psychological realism can deeply impact an individual's

thinking and mentality about both themselves and the society. Kafka's exploration of the inner world and the subconscious invites readers to think on their own thoughts, fears, and desires.

By

encountering characters who deal with existential fear, alienation, and the absurdity of existence,

readers may become more alert about their own lives and identities. They may question the nature of their reality and confront their own anxieties and uncertainties.

Kafka's portrayal of bureaucratic systems, power dynamics, and societal norms call readers to analyze the structures that govern their own societies. Through his satirical and often surreal depictions, readers may develop a critical perspective on the injustices, absurdities, and complexities of the social world. This can lead to a great awareness of societal issues and a desire for change or reform.

Kafka's narratives are characterized by ambiguity, uncertainty, and a sense of the inexplicable.

By immersing themselves in his works, readers may learn to embrace the inherent ambiguity of

life and the limits of human understanding. This acceptance can lead to greater tolerance for ambiguity in their own lives, providing flexibility and adaptability in the face of uncertainty.

Kafka's writing often challenges conventional modes of perception and cognition. Through his

use of surreal imagery and psychological symbolism, readers may experience a shift in their perception of reality. They may become more attuned to the nuances of human experience and

more open to alternative ways of seeing the world.

Overall, engaging with Kafka's works from a psychological realism perspective can be a transformative experience, prompting readers to question their assumptions, confront their fears,

and deepen their understanding of themselves and the society in which they live. Through this

process, they may emerge with a more nuanced, empathetic, and self-examining outlook on life.

Reading Franz Kafka's works through a lens of psychological realism can bring about several societal and familial changes by increasing empathy, understanding, and critical reflection.

Franz Kafka, a prominent figure in modernist literature, is renowned for his exploration of existential themes, alienation, and the absurdity of human existence. His works often dive into

the psyche of his characters, portraying their inner conflicts, fears, and anxieties.

Psychological

realism, as a literary approach, focuses on showcasing the inner workings of the human mind, emotions, and motivations in a realistic manner.

Kafka humanizes the experiences of individuals struggling with mental health challenges.

Readers may come to recognize that such struggles are not typical of personal weakness but are

part of the universal human condition.

Engaging with Kafka's works from a psychological realism perspective can spark meaningful dialogue and awareness about mental health issues within families and communities. By

discussing the themes and characters in Kafka's stories, families can open up conversations about

their own experiences with mental health, reducing the stress surrounding these topics and providing a supportive and positive environment for those in need.

Kafka's narratives often critique societal norms and institutions, inviting readers to critically reflect on the systems that govern their lives. Through characters like Josef K. who is trapped in

a bureaucratic and oppressive legal system, Kafka highlights the absurdity and injustices inherent

in societal structures. By examining these themes through a psychological realism lens, readers can question the validity of societal norms and contemplate alternative ways of organizing

society that prioritizes human well-being.

Reading Kafka's works through a psychological realism framework can also encourage individuals to engage in self-reflection and self study. By recognizing aspects of themselves in

Kafka's characters, readers may gain insights into their own fears, anxieties, and existential dilemmas. This self-awareness can lead to personal growth and a deeper understanding of one's

own motivations and desires.

Exploring Kafka's works together as a family can foster bonding and create shared experiences.

By reading and discussing Kafka's stories, family members can Connect over shared interpretations, insights, and emotional reactions. This shared engagement with literature can strengthen familial relationships and create lasting memories.

Kafka's portrayal of characters grappling with seemingly insurmountable challenges can inspire

strength in readers. By witnessing characters like Gregor Samsa endure unimaginable hardship in

"The Metamorphosis," readers may gain a newfound appreciation for the resilience of the human

spirit. This recognition of resilience can empower individuals facing their own struggles to persevere in the face of adversity.

Kafka's exploration of existential themes and the absurdity of human existence can challenge readers to question their assumptions about reality. Through narratives that blur the lines between dream and reality, sanity and madness, Kafka destabilizes conventional notions of truth and invites readers to embrace ambiguity and uncertainty. This willingness to engage with the

complexities of existence can foster intellectual curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the mysteries of life.

Reading Franz Kafka's works through a lens of psychological realism can bring about significant

societal and familial changes by fostering empathy, understanding, critical reflection, and resilience. By engaging with Kafka's characters and themes, readers are prompted to confront the

complexities of the human condition and to regard their own place within the world. Through meaningful dialogue and introspection, individuals and families can cultivate greater empathy,

comfort, and a deeper appreciation for the richness of human experience.

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