

Shrinking Gregor Samsa

Poster 1

Go to the website below. How does Maslow's theory help to explain Gregor's apparent irrational repetition of poor choices? Where was he stuck? Identify plot points in the book when he was at different levels. Does he ever reach the top two levels? Draw the triangle and graph examples of stages he visits.

<http://www.edpsycinteractive.org/topics/regsys/maslow.html>

Poster 2

Your roles are that of psychologists representing a particular theory. Your job is to (1) explain your group's theory to the class and to (2) create a list of what your group believes are the causes of certain of Gregor's behaviors before he passed away based on your theory. (2) Also, based on your theory, create a list of specific recommendations to help him. All information should be presented as well organized bullets on two or three posters. You would want to consider his problems before he passes away. Posters should be clear, creative and show reflection to earn 20 points. Part 2 of the assignment is a more creative look and there is room for extrapolation. Below are pages in the supplemental text that apply to groups. Please do some additional research as well.

- **Group 1. Pavlovian Theory.** (172 and 173) Behavior as a response to stimuli. Speculate on how Gregor came to find masochism and self denial gratifying.
- **Group 2. Freud and psychoanalytic theory.** Read 422-426. Concentrate on the parts of consciousness id, superego, and ego. Touch on dreams and applicable defense mechanisms as well.
- **Group 3. Karen Horney.** Read 432 (bottom) to 434. Concentrate on her theory of neurosis and coping strategies to create your discussion.
- **Group 4. Alfred Adler.** Read 434 to 435. Address/explain his ideas on depth psychology and the unconscious, inferiority complex, and the importance of a democratic childhood.
- **Group 5. Carl Jung.** Read 435-436. Discuss individuation, Jungian archetypes and the collective unconscious.
- **Group 6. Erick H. Erickson.** Read 437 to 439: Discuss his theory of psychological development and his concept of identity crisis.
- **Group 7. Object Relations School.** 440-443. Focus on good and bad as reasons for the paranoid schizoid position. Consider how this may apply to the bug idea.
- **Group 8. Albert Ellis and Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy.** Touch on the theory as well as irrational ideas that sustain neurosis and unconditional self acceptance.

<http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/ellis.html>

Scoring Guide

Maslow

Theory clearly and concisely explained on the poster with correlating specific plot points

_____ **10**

Creative and colorful visual

_____ **4**

Psychological Theory

Theory must be clearly outlined and quickly understandable as well as colorfully and creatively displayed

_____ **8**

Gregor's behaviors are tied in coherently, specifically and logically

_____ **8**

Professionally delivered – organized and prepared

_____ **8**