

“Metamorphosis of the Decaying” Artist Statement

In this project I wanted to add interests of my own with Frank Kafka's “Metamorphosis” and my close reading. The theme and idea I chose is the abandonment and isolation of Gregor Samsa in the story. For some context, Gregor went through an insect transformation which brought out the darkest and ugliest part of his family (mom, dad, and sister). The interest that I would like to connect with this novel is architecture. Architecture is my dream career and one of the biggest passions I have. I decided to connect it with an abandoned street and buildings, as it slowly yet progressively crumbles apart. This building relates to Gregor as they both are abandoned, isolated and slowly dying emotionally and physically.

A difficult task in this process was to find a way to mix written quotes of “Metamorphosis” and my close reading. I finally found a way to do it. I added the quotes as if they were graffiti in the abandoned building. I chose to make the drawing with sad and dark colors to represent the sad and tragic condition Gregor is in. I added 3D bricks in the roof and tower for more abandoned and broken buildings. The cockrocks represent Gregor under the bridge alone and looking for a real connection with his family. The human shadows behind him represent his family and how they pretend to be there for him, when instead they reject him and treat him horrible. There is wood in the borders of the broken windows to highlight the building. That wood is painted the color dark green because it reminded me of Gregor. I mixed in sand with liquid glue to the floor for a more dirty and rustic look.

In “Metamorphosis of the Decaying,” a collage and drawing I created, I analyzed the painful relationship between a decaying and abandoned building and the character Gregor Samsa from Franz Kafka’s “Metamorphosis.” This piece is a reflection on the idea of abandonment, isolation, and the harsh impacts that time and neglect have on both buildings and people. In my artwork, the abandoned street represents the overwhelming feeling of desolation and deterioration that Gregor finds in Kafka's story. It serves as a metaphor for Gregor's slow breakdown as he develops an illogical transformation into a hideous insect, extreme abandonment of his own family and finally the utter feeling of loneliness in a big world. The building's crumbling facade, broken windows, abandoned buildings and graffiti all over represent Gregor's humanity being progressively lost, highlighting his growing isolation from both his family and society.