

Artist Statement-Valeria Alvarez

As soon as I finished reading the metamorphosis, I kept thinking a lot about the emotions and feelings Gregor had hidden and did not want to express; which were mainly based on the segregation, exclusion, lack of communication and marginalization he suffered on a daily basis. In my close reading, I tried to explain these ideas further, but I felt like I was missing something to get more into Gregor's head, and I came to this essential question that someone asked in class, "Why can't we know what turned him into a Vermin? Why is it so confusing to know?". I was thinking a lot, and then in psychology class we started talking about Freud and the subconscious, and how dreams are a representation of repressed emotions, the repetition of events, and the importance of symbols and elements. This connection I made helped me a lot for my remix because the objective of my video is to try to represent that the whole story of the Metamorphosis is a dream that Gregor or his subconscious tries to bring out; showing the emotions and fears that both Gregor and society have in common.

For this reason, I started my stop motion video with a distorted clock, with the purpose of making the time in the story subjective because according to my theory, Gregor's transformation did not happen in a real way. In that scene, I used colors with blue and purple tones because according to my research, the appearance of those colors in dreams represents sadness, depression, and spiritual warning; which could be related to Gregor's mental state.

Then I drew another clock showing 7 o'clock in the morning followed by question marks and the word time being distorted in order to show that Gregor's supposed transformation that occurred at 7 o'clock in the morning makes no sense since my interpretation is based on dreams which have no time. Then you see the formation of a shell by several balls coming together, which shows how Gregor is a mixture of serious dilemmas that are present in today's society.

Afterwards, quotes from my close reading and from the book start coming out of the corners, destroying the shell to show how the power of words can completely damage a person. As soon as the shell is destroyed, a poem called "Rejection" by Susan Williams comes out, which refers to how rejection can destroy anyone because no one is immune to it, but time and a poet's pen can be an escape from that suffering. I decided to use that poem since I feel that this whole dream is like the way Gregor tries to write all his sufferings, creating a different time. Finally, in the last scene, I tried to represent Gregor waking up from the dream, showing him anxious and stressed because he has never felt such real and strong emotions inside a simple dream that evidences the pain he feels, and that he can't express it in any way.