

The Metamorphosis

by Franz Kafka

10th Honors/ Gifted English
Dream Unit
L. Douglas

Franz Kafka



- Born July 3, 1883
- Died June 3, 1924

Franz Kafka

- Born in upper middle class Jewish family in Prague, Czechoslovakia (it was Austria then)
- He was the oldest of six children
- His two brothers, Georg and Heinrick, died when they were less than a year old, but several years apart.
- He had three sisters, Elli, Valli, Ottla
- Franz was quiet and withdrawn but would write and perform plays for his sisters

Franz Kafka

- Educated at German schools and learned the language early
- He did well in school and enrolled in Charles Ferdinand University
- He changed majors often, but settled on law because it would not “interfere with his mental life.”
- Graduated with a Doctorate of Law in 1906

Franz Kafka

- He began writing when he was in school.
- He continued writing while working various jobs: insurance salesman and owner of an asbestos factory – which nearly drove him to suicide
- He never married but had several broken engagements.
- In August of 1917 he was diagnosed with TB. He died of the disease in 1924.

Franz Kafka

- His parents both died by 1934. All three are buried in the same cemetery.
- His three sisters died in the Nazi Concentration Camps. His sister Ottla died transporting children to Auschwitz.
- Kafka requested that all his writings be burned when he died. No one honored his request.
- Most of his works were published posthumously

Existentialism

- A philosophy that stresses the uniqueness and isolation of the individual in a hostile or indifferent universe
- Regards human existence as unexplainable
- Stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions
- Many writers believed the one and only certainty in life is death

Existentialism

- The literary movement can be summarized as the belief that people are all that there is. There is no higher power.
- Each individual is cursed with freedom and must make his own way in the world
- Life is without ultimate meaning or reason.



Existentialism

- The spirit of existentialism can be summarized by Calvin and Hobbes
- **Calvin:** We all want meaningful lives. We look for meaning in everything we do. But suppose there IS no meaning! Suppose life is fundamentally absurd! Suppose there's no reason, or truth, or rightness in anything! What if nothing means anything? What if nothing really matters?



WE ALL WANT MEANINGFUL LIVES. WE LOOK FOR MEANING IN EVERYTHING WE DO.



BUT SUPPOSE THERE IS NO MEANING! SUPPOSE LIFE IS FUNDAMENTALLY ABSURD!

SUPPOSE THERE'S NO REASON, OR TRUTH, OR RIGHTNESS IN ANYTHING!



calvin and hobbes

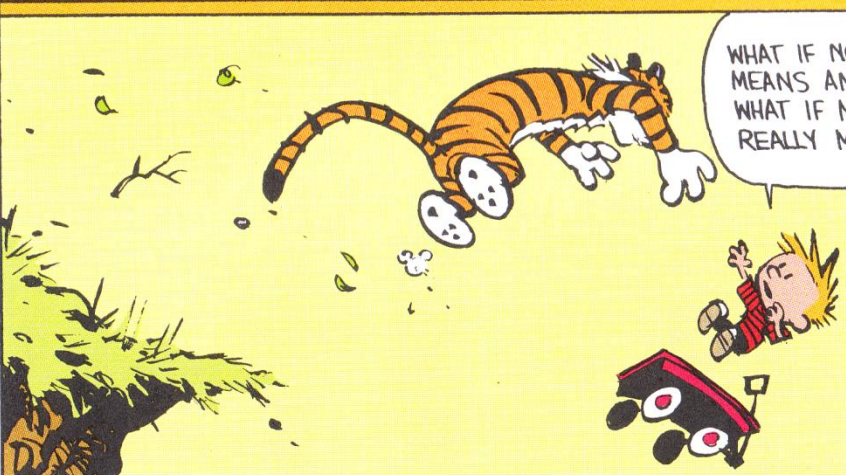
by WATKINSON

I GUESS THERE'S NO HARM IN A LITTLE WISHFUL THINKING.

OR SUPPOSE EVERYTHING MATTERS. WHICH WOULD BE WORSE??



WHAT IF NOTHING MEANS ANYTHING? WHAT IF NOTHING REALLY MATTERS?



Works Cited

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