

A BUG YESTERDAY, YET A BUG TODAY

"Look at that nasty bug on the wall! I don't want to touch it. Kill it!" Those words are reserved for moments when those of us just can't stand bugs. However, Gregor, in "The Metamorphosis", sees bugs as a comforting thought. Bugs don't have stress. Gregor has so much pressure heaped upon himself that he wants an escape. Although "The Metamorphosis" is a story from the past, it demonstrates two themes which are relevant to today: neglect and stress.

Gregor is just another tragic character in a web of tragic stories. Gregor's father's business goes under, which leaves Gregor with the responsibility of becoming the breadwinner. Gregor takes it upon himself and becomes a traveling salesman. Now, the family relies completely on him for income. At first they are grateful towards his generosity. Eventually, they take his help for granted. At this point the relevancy between "The Metamorphosis" and today comes into play. Gregor suffers a mental breakdown and needs love and support from his family. Gregor believes himself to be a bug, and his family neglects him in his time of need. When the family needed a helping hand, Gregor was there. Who is there to help him? No one is there except for his sister. It is total irony; it is also a slap

in the face. So many people today refuse to help out in the community, in the home, and in morals; because they are too busy with their lives. Neglect is an awful habit.

Stress is another relevant theme between "The Metamorphosis" and today. Today, people suffer from mental breakdowns because of stress and "failures" in the workplace. So many expectations are placed on people; some Japanese people commit suicide. Gregor changes to a bug in his mind, because he is crying for help. No one in his family answers him though. Stress is the downfall of Gregor.

Neglect and stress are common themes between today and "The Metamorphosis". Gregor is a reflection of many people in our society today. Too much stress is placed upon people. The results are ultimately tragic.