

Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)

Grades

● 9–12

Teacher-In-Residence

● Gretchen De Lopez

Subjects

● Spanish, 20th Century
Literature, SEL, Art History,
Sociology

Carnegie
Museum of Art

Goals

- Promote student awareness of how art and literature can reflect society—both the systems and the reactions of individuals subjected to them.
- Express feelings, beliefs, and ideas using visual arts.
- Understand, interpret, and analyze what is heard, read, or viewed.
- Interact and negotiate meaning in spoken, and written conversations to share information, reactions, feelings, and opinions.
- Use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the products and perspectives of the cultures studied.
- Build, reinforce, and expand knowledge of other disciplines while using the language to develop critical thinking and to solve problems creatively.
- Use the language to investigate, explain, and reflect on the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Objectives

- To analyze a piece of art by interpreting Spanish text about the artist, Manuel Rivera, and by completing an English language Edpuzzle video to gain knowledge about the writer, Franz Kafka, that inspired the artist's piece.
- To begin using Spanish vocabulary necessary to be able to discuss works of art and literature.
- To use interpersonal communication skills to participate in a mock interview.
- To write and present information on a personal interpretation of the artist's work as it relates to the work of literature that inspired it, and the cultural connections between the two societies.

Standards

ACTFL Standards:

- Communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, Presentational)
- Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)
- Connections (Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives)
- Communities (School and Global Communities)

Common Core/ National Core

Arts Standards:

- **Anchor Standard 6** Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.
- **Anchor Standard 7** Perceive and analyze artistic work
- **Anchor Standard 8** Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- **Anchor Standard 10** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experience to make art
- **Anchor Standard 11** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Materials

- Interpretive article, Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)
- Edpuzzle Video: What Is Kafkaesque?—The ‘Philosophy’ of Franz Kafka
- Google Slides or PowerPoint for presentation task
- Internet for research purposes
- Supplies to create artwork (optional)

Vocabulary

- El homenaje = homage
- Nace(r) = to be born
- Pintura de bodegones o pintura de naturalezas muertas = still life
- Los retratos = portraits
- Los paisajes = landscapes
- El espacio = space
- La tela = cloth
- El bastidor = stretcher frame
- El lienzo = the canvas
- Lograr = to reach a goal
- Vacio = an emptiness, gap, vacuum,
- Los pigmentos = pigments
- El relato = short story, tale
- Las vivencias = life lessons, experiences
- Las mallas = mesh, net, netting
- Fugaz/fugaces = brief, fleeting

Resources

- Interpretative Article: Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)
- Edpuzzle Video: What Is Kafkaesque?—The ‘Philosophy’ of Franz Kafka

Artwork



Manuel Rivera, *Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)*, 1963, Kaufmann's Purchase Award, 65.10

Lesson

Introduction: Overview of Intermediate level IPA Task for “What Inspires People to Create Literature/Art?”

You are going on a field trip to the Carnegie Museum of Art and your Spanish teacher is requiring that you view a piece of artwork called *Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)* (1963) by Spanish artist Manuel Rivera. The artwork sparks your curiosity to learn as much as you can about the artist and his inspiration, German-language writer Franz Kafka. First you will read an article in Spanish about Manuel Rivera and complete a comprehension task. Next, you will complete an Edpuzzle video to help you become more familiar with the author Franz Kafka, who inspired the artwork by Rivera. Then, based on what you found out, you will develop a set of questions that you would want to ask either the writer or the artist if you were given the chance to interview them. You and a classmate will compare the questions you each created, and work together to create responses to the questions which you agree are the most important and relevant. You will take on the roles of interviewer and interviewee to develop and present a mock interview. Finally,

you will return to and answer anew the questions of What do you See? Think? and Wonder? to create a Google Slides presentation that will explain your interpretations and theories based on the information found during your research.

Interpretive Task 1 “El Arte”

First sight: Critique the artwork by responding to the questions: What do you see? Think? Wonder? about the piece *Metamorphosis (Homage to Kafka)* by Manuel Rivera.

After discussing the piece by Manuel Rivera, you want to further your knowledge of the artist and his inspiration, Franz Kafka. You will read and interpret a Spanish language article that explains in part Rivera’s connection to Kafka. Read the article and complete the Comprehension task.

Interpretive Task 2 “La Literatura”

Now that you have a deeper understanding of the artist’s inspiration, you are going to learn a little bit more about the inspiration, the writer Franz Kafka and his work of literature *The Metamorphosis*.

- Complete the Edpuzzle video: What Is Kafkaesque?—The ‘Philosophy’ of Franz Kafka

Lesson

Interpersonal Task: You are going to take on the role of someone who wishes to interview either the artist, Miguel Rivera, or the writer, Franz Kafka. Write 5 questions that you would like to ask them. You will then be paired with someone that also chose to write questions for the same interviewee. You and your partner will compare the questions each of you have created and determine which are the most relevant and important. Choose 6 of the 10 questions to answer. You will then work together to create responses to the questions based on what you have learned about the author or artist. You will present the questions and answers in a mock interview. You can either present this live or pre-recorded.

Presentational Task: Return to the questions: What do you See? Think? Wonder? about the artwork. How have your responses changed from those you gave at First Sight, and now, after learning about the artist and the work's inspiration? Create a visual presentation to tell your audience what you now see in the artwork, and what you think about it. Research your question(s) of Wonder, and present information you found to support your theories, ideas,

or arguments. You can use your own ideas or choose from the following:

1. Compare the societies of the author, Kafka (Czech Kingdom 1903–1920's), and the artist, Rivera (Spain 1950–1970's). Compare and contrast the societies, focus on identifying significant similarities that make connections between the two works.
2. Take on the role of Rivera to explain exactly what you hoped the viewers would see, think, and be motivated to ask by the artwork.
3. Rivera created other pieces that are part of the Metamorphosis series. Choose another piece in the series to interpret by researching it further and answering the questions: What do you See, Think, and Wonder?
4. Create your own piece of artwork "Metamorphosis-style," or a "Kafkaesque" short story and present information about your inspiration, and what you want viewers to See, Think, and Wonder when they look at or read your piece. Present the work and an interpretation/explanation to an audience.