

**Excerpt from Splendid Productions' 'Metamorphosis'**  
**By Franz Kafka**  
**adapted by Kerry Frampton**



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**EPISODE 1**

**Curator 3**                    Introducing Gregor's family... *(To Curator 2)* Ready?

**Curator 2**                    Ready.

The Curators take off their glasses to become Father and Mother.

**Father**                        *(taking the physicality of Father)* Father.

**Mother**                        *(taking the physicality of Mother)* Mother.

**Mother & Father**            *(running their daily routine)* **Wake up.**  
**Wash.**  
**Dress.**  
**Eat.**  
*(They create the breakfast table with the curtain.)*  
**Table.**  
**Set.**  
**Lovely tea.**

**Mother**                        *(drinking)* Sip!

**Father**                        *(drinking)* Slurp!

**Mother & Father**            **Mmmm!**

Grete runs on with a small glockenspiel. The family wear fixed smiles. They are conspicuously happy throughout.

**Grete**                         Good morning father, good morning mother!

**Mother & Father**            Good morning Grete!

**Grete**                         And what a lovely morning! *(She plays a glissando on the glockenspiel)* Let's sing!

**All**                                    *(singing)* **We put on our happy face,  
So everyone knows that things are just fine.  
We've got all the nice things that nice people have.  
Yes we're smiling, smiling, smiling all the time!**

**The sun shines on us can't you see can't you see?  
The sun shines on us can't you see?**

**Grete**                                    Every morning exactly the same. Our normal daily routine:

With another glockenspiel glissando, Grete disappears behind the curtain.  
Mother and Father recreate the breakfast table exactly as before.

**Mother & Father**            **Table.  
Set.  
Lovely tea.**

**Mother**                                *(drinking)* Sip!

**Father**                                 *(drinking)* Slurp!

**Mother & Father**            **Mmmm!**

Grete reappears, this time without the glockenspiel.

**Grete**                                    Good morning father, good morning mother!

**Mother & Father**            Good morning Grete!

**Grete**                                    And what a lovely morning!

**Mother & Father**            *(aside - Grete covers ears)* Grete is 'still a child'. Our pretty porcelain doll to keep in a box. *(End of aside – they snap back into position.)*

**Grete**                                    I live with my family, mother, father and older brother Gregor - he's at work -

**Mother & Father**            *(to the audience)* **Good morning everyone!**

**Grete**                                    ... in an average-sized, leafy apartment on Charlottenstrasse.

**All**                                        *(to each other)* **A normal happy family!**

**Father**                                    Bernard Samsa, husband and father.

**Mother**                                    Johanna Samsa, wife and mother.

- Grete** Grete Samsa, dutiful daughter. (*Aside – Father covers ears, Mother covers mouth*) Mother was born into a society where women could not expect more than marriage and motherhood. She appears satisfied and unquestioning. (*End of aside.*)
- Father** I'm a retired gentleman now.
- Mother** (*aside – Father covers ears, Grete covers mouth*) Five years of inactivity have made Bernard fat and lazy.
- Grete** (*aside – Father continues to cover ears*) He spouts his traditional, narrow views on the world as if they were fact. (*End of aside.*)
- Father** In the evenings I take pleasure in reading aloud from the newspaper to my wife and daughter.
- Grete** (*aside – Mother covers mouth, Grete and Mother each cover one of Father's ears*) So they know exactly what to think and exactly how to think it. (*End of aside.*)
- Mother** I don't always understand 'current affairs' do I Bernard? But I do my best.
- Father** She does her best.
- Grete** In the evenings I like to practice my violin. Gregor loves to listen to me when he comes home from work. Everyone says that my playing is sublime.
- Mother & Father** (*listening proudly*) It's sublime!
- Grete curtsies.
- Mother** Gregor's at work right now.
- Father** He's a salesman...
- Mother** ...in the city. Very successful. He travels all over the place, I lose track of where he is from day to day, he's just so busy! (*Aside – Father and Grete cover their ears*) Johanna aches with the missing of her eldest child. (*End of aside.*)
- Father** Like I said, we're normal.
- All** **Normal!**