

Name _____ Date _____

Franz Kafka

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

Throughout history, authors have had their names used to create adjectives describing writing and art.

Shakespearean is an adjective that comes from the famous writer William Shakespeare. When a piece of writing is described as Shakespearean, it's referring to a high-quality blend of dialogue, setting, and overall creativity of the story.

Kafkaesque comes from Franz Kafka and is used to describe situations that are surreal and difficult, like a nightmare. Some examples of Kafkaesque stories include Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, George Orwell's Animal Farm, and the science fiction series The Twilight Zone.

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2. b'

Franz Kafka was born on July 3, 1883, in Prague, Bohemia, now known as the Czech Republic. The oldest of six children, he faced many difficulties during his childhood. Both of his younger brothers died by the time Kafka turned six, his mother had a difficult time understanding why he wanted to be a writer, and his salesman father was an overbearing presence. As an adult, he attended law school and graduated in 1906. He published very little while alive and requested that, after his death in 1924, his works be burned. However, his friend Max Brod went against his wishes and posthumously published his work.

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3. b'

Kafka's stories explore the human condition and existential themes like alienation, isolation, and guilt. They also commonly feature tragic endings. In *Poseidon*, the god of the sea is disgruntled at the bottom of the ocean doing calculations for his managers, overwhelmed by paperwork, and figuring out how to manage the sea. In *The Judgment*, a tumultuous relationship between a son and his aging father leads to a tragic death. In *The Metamorphosis*, a son wakes up to find he's transformed into a repulsive insect. He slowly dies from his family's neglect brought on by their shame and his own guilty despair.

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