

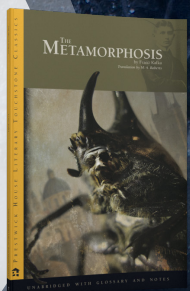
“  
**A book  
must  
be the  
axe for  
the  
frozen  
sea  
inside  
us.**  
”

Franz Kafka



### **Franz Kafka**

was born on July 3, 1883, to a Jewish family in Prague, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His parents had six children; Kafka became the eldest after the deaths of his two older brothers. In 1901, Kafka was admitted to the German Charles-Ferdinand University to study law. After obtaining his degree, Kafka worked for an insurance agency and wrote in his spare time. Many of his stories featured surreal or irrational elements coupled with existential themes. One of his most famous works, *The Metamorphosis*, was published in 1915 in a German magazine. In 1917, Kafka was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He would later die from complications of the disease in 1924. Kafka enlisted his friend and fellow author Max Brod to destroy his manuscripts upon his death, but Brod instead chose to edit and distribute his works.



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thoughts behind the printed page

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