

APPENDICES

Summary of Four Kafka's Short Stories

A Country Doctor

It tells about a doctor in a small country who receives an emergency call at night to cure the injured boy. That day the weather is not good and the distance is so far to get to the patient's house. When the doctor arrives, the entire family of the boy and the villagers are already waiting for him, they put their hope on the doctor for the boy's recovery. Then the doctor examines the boy, he finds the wound is infected by worms, and he cannot cure the boy because it is too late. As a result the doctor is humiliated and blamed by the villagers because he fails to cure the boy. In the end he runs away from the patients' house then goes home, he feels his effort is meaningless.

Josephine the Singer or the Mouse Folk

It tells about Josephine whose work is singing among a community whose people are hard workers. First, people like her singing and think she is special, then people think that she becomes boring and people think that she is lazy. On the contrary, at the same time people think she is a gift to the community. One day she injures herself accidentally, as a result of which she cannot sing well anymore, no one tolerates her carelessness, eventually she is missing, and no body could find her.

A Hunger Artist

In the story people like to observe the artist as he fasts. Some of them watch carefully to prevent the artist from secretly snacking. In those times 40 days was the limit of fasting. On the 40th day, the artist's cage will be decorated with flowers as he emerges to the aid of doctors and the crowd's applause. But then the public has lost interest. The artist leaves his impresario and hires himself out to a circus where his cage is placed near the cages of animals. He is worried about the reaction of the visitors at that time, some of whom would stop to watch him, but others rush right past him to see the animals. Finally, the keeper finds the hunger artist among the straw when he enters the cage. He dies and is replaced by a panther.

A Report to an Academy

The story tells about an undercover soldier who presents his report to a meeting of the scientific Academy. Less than five years ago, he is captured by primitive people in the jungles of West Africa. For the primitive people the soldier appearance looks different from their society. The soldier is being prisoned and he is trapped within the foreign custom in the primitive society. Then he plans a way out from that society by following the primitive society's customs. He follows all the custom, until the society thinks that he is the same as them. Finally he can go back to England.

Biography of Franz Kafka

Franz Kafka was born in Prague in 1883 of Jewish parents. He was the oldest of six children – two boys died in infancy, and three girls were murdered by the Nazis in the early 1940s. His father, Hermann, was a successful businessman who had no time for his son's intellectual and literary interests, and insisted on his studying law at university. Kafka completes his studies in 1906, and two years later took up an appointment with an insurance company in Prague. Although he worked in insurance, he always resented the time it took away from his writing. He usually wrote at night, sometimes through the night, thus working himself into a state of exhaustion that must have contributed to his early death.

In 1917 he was diagnosed for tuberculosis and spent the final stages of his illness in a nursing home at Kierling, and died on 3rd June 1924, aged forty. He published little in his lifetime and gave instructions in his will that all his writings should be destroyed. Fortunately for posterity, this directive was ignored by his friends and executor Max Brod, who immediately after Kafka's death prepared both *the trial* and *the castle* for publication, in 1925 and 1926. Kafka himself only published a few shorter works in his lifetime: *Metamorphosis* (1915), *The Sentence* (1916), *A Country Doctor* (1919), and *In the Penal Colony* (1919).