

“THE ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE”

Discussion Questions

1. The people chained inside the cave see only shadows. What are the shadows? Where do they come from?
2. The freed prisoner tries to explain to the other prisoners about freedom and the world outside the cave, but they choose to continue wearing chains. Why?
3. Why would the freed prisoner rather accept punishment than go back down into the cave again?
4. What obligation, if any, does the freed prisoner have to the people chained in the cave? Does mankind have a responsibility to society?
5. Collaborating as a group, create a definition of truth and reality. Write it down.
6. Poet Thomas Gray famously wrote in 1742, “Where ignorance is bliss, ’tis folly to be wise.” What does this mean? Do you agree?
7. Discuss what responsibility we have regarding each area of society:
 - a. Education
 - b. Family
 - c. Government
 - d. Welfare (not the government program, but the general concept of helping those less fortunate).