

Intro to Philosophy

Connections: muMs, Plato, the Tao

Name _____ Class _____

PART I: Literary Analysis

Read the excerpt below in the box on the left from Irish philosopher John O'Donohue's work Anam Cara. Then complete the analytic critical-thinking questions in the boxes on the right.

An interesting question to ask at night is, What did I really see this day?...It is a startling truth that how you see and what you see determine how and who you will be... Ask yourself, "What way do I behold the world?..."

To the fearful eye, all is threatening... To the greedy eye, everything can be possessed... To the judgmental eye, everything is [put on trial, examined, and sentenced]... To the resentful eye, everything is [seen with envy and bitterness]... To the indifferent eye, [everything is *blab* and uninspiring]... To the inferior eye, everyone else is greater... To the loving eye, everything is...full of invitation, possibility, and depth. The loving eye can even coax pain, hurt, and violence toward [transformation] and renewal...

Explain: What is O'Donohue's main message/idea?

Enrich: Connect this text to the muMs poem.

Extend: Create 2 new "eyes," and discuss their sight.

Evaluate: Self-assess... With what eye do you see?

PART II: Comparative Interpretation

Read in Box A the story of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates (pictured above Box A).

In Box B, interpret the image of the trees through the lens of the Socrates story.



A: Historical Socrates. The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates was executed by the rulers of Athens after being convicted of "corrupting the youth." Socrates was known to question young people, asking them to justify their belief in the gods given that they could not see the gods. He aimed for people to be free-thinking independents rather than sheep who merely accepted what was told.



B: Figurative Socrates:

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PART III: Analyzing Plato

Go to the class website (www.prather.yolasite.com). Watch two videos about the contributions of the ancient Greek philosopher Plato: *Objects and Forms* and *Allegory of the Cave* (this one is more challenging).

As and after you watch (and you should re-watch as many times as necessary), **create a graphic organizer** or diagram below that **shows Plato's key ideas about objects and forms** (reality and truth).

PART IV: Interpreting Plato

Re-examine the image on the left. The image shows you an object – trees. Then on the right try to discuss the form – *treeness*. What are the qualities of a perfect tree???

OBJECT: Trees

FORM: *Treeness*



PART V: Making connections

Return to the muMs poem. Re-annotate in places where you observe Plato in the poet's work!