

Intro to Philosophy

Connections: muMs, Plato, the Tao

NAME _____

PART I: Comparative Review of muMs and Plato

Directions Examine the key idea and the content in the tables. Complete each task (*) as assigned.

Key Idea #1: There is a higher, ultimate reality beyond the surface reality that we see before us.

PLATO

<u>FORMS</u>	>	<u>OBJECTS</u>	>	<u>SHADOWS</u>
"Treeness"		Trees		Image of trees
"Love"		Wedding ring		Movie about love
"Honesty"		Friend's words to you		3 rd -party gossip

In his work *The Allegory of the Cave* Plato described prisoners in a cave watching shadows of images move across a wall. Without ever seeing the actual objects, they perceived and believed that the shadows were real. When one of the prisoners escaped he discovered that the shadows were illusions – copies, or mere expressions of the objects.

Plato proposed this theory: Given that objects are more real than their shadows, it is possible that there may be something more real than objects; given that shadows are expressions of objects, perhaps objects are expressions of something higher and unseen.

Indeed, Plato believed there are conceptual truths beyond visible reality, and he called these truths **forms**. Perfect and unchanging, the forms are the only *true realities*. Objects are imperfect, incomplete expressions of the forms. We perceive objects with our senses, and we base our understandings on our perceptions.

.....
*Identify the following as **F**orms, **O**bjects, or **S**hadows.

- 1) ____ Me ____ My Instagram account ____ Authenticity
- 2) ____ Ocean postcard ____ *Oceanness* ____ Atlantic Ocean
- 3) ____ Music ____ Live concert ____ Album review/critique

MUMS

*Write lines (and cite the line #s) from muMs' poem that support the key idea.

Key Idea #2: We are chained to our illusions, our own realities, which are familiar and comfortable. We think we "get" it, but we don't have a clue; and we reject the wisdom of others when it threatens our comfort.

PLATO

*Read the text above and/or watch the *Plato* videos on the class website. Then explain why Plato would agree with Key Idea #2.

MUMS

*Cite and briefly explain 2 excerpts from muMs' poem that support Key Idea #2.

Intro to Philosophy

Connections: muMs, Plato, the Tao

Key Idea #3: Freedom comes when we grasp the light of wisdom and gain a higher understanding of truth.

PLATO

*Read the text above and/or watch the *Plato* videos on the class website. Then answer these questions:

- 1) When the escaped prisoner in Plato's *Allegory* returns to the cave, does he have an easier or harder time seeing the shadows? Explain.
- 2) How does your answer to Q1 overlap with Key Idea #3?

MUMS

*Refer to the poem by muMs to help you answer these questions.

- 1) Explain how lines 8-9 of the poem connect with Key Idea #3.
- 2) How *might* the last 4 lines of the poem reflect Key Idea #3?
- 3) Write/Cite one more short excerpt (1-2 lines) that supports Key Idea #3.

PART II: Literary Analysis

Read the excerpt on the left written by Plato in 380 BCE in his book The Republic.

Paraphrase each segment (by #) in your own words in the space on the right.

¹The inexperienced in wisdom and virtue, ²ever occupied with feasting and such, ³are carried downward, ⁴and there, as is fitting, they wander their whole life long, ⁵neither ever looking upward to the truth above them nor rising toward it, ⁶nor tasting pure and lasting pleasures. ⁷Like cattle, always looking downward with their heads bent toward the ground and the banquet tables, ⁸they feed, fatten, and fornicate. ⁹In order to increase their possessions ¹⁰they kick and butt with horns and hoofs of steel and kill each other, ¹¹insatiable as they are.