

Allegory of the cave data sheet assignment

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BUSTER**

Plato planned a political career until Athens became controlled by an Oligarchy of wealthy men. After Athens was restored into a democracy and his mentor, Socrates, was put to death, Plato became involved in philosophy. He eventually founded the Academy. Characteristics of Genre: Extended metaphor, philosophical/ deeper meaning, extended metaphor to become a direct representation of teacher's thoughts Plot Summary: Socrates is speaking to Plato's brother, Glaucon. He begins by telling him a story about men in a cave. Three prisoners have been chained inside a cave so tightly that they have been immobile since birth.

They are only able to see shadows cast on a wall from the fire burning behind them. Because they are chained, this is the only reality known to the prisoners. One day, a prisoner is released from the cave but is blinded by the light outside of the cave and shocked to see a new reality outside of the cave. He returns back to tell the other prisoners but they do not believe what he tells them because the shadows are all they have ever known. Author's style: Plato writes with a style of intellectuality. He challenges the reader's intelligence through the use of questions and the use of looking at the deeper meaning of things.

He uses a metaphor and different literary devices to create a representation of his thoughts. Example of style: "It is the task of the enlightened not only to ascend to learning and to see the good but to be willing to descend again to those prisoners and to share their troubles and not their honors, whether they are worth having or not. And this they must do, even with the prospect of death." Memorable quotes/significance: "How could they see

anything but the shadows if they were never allowed to even their heads? ”

Glaucoma makes one of the major points of the story.

He claims that the prisoners were not capable of seeing anything other than what they were made to see. The efficacy of this quote is that we as people need to be more proactive with our surroundings. We shouldn't be like the prisoners and just listen to what others tell us, we should be curious enough to find out on our own. “ Any one who has common sense will remember that the bewilderments of the eyes are of two kinds, and arise from two causes, either from coming out of the light or from going into the light” Both finding out the truth and being hindered from the truth will still affect the person.

We will be shocked from finding out the truth for the first time and we will be shocked from learning the truth and trying to return to what we once knew. Plato makes the point that truth is a shocking concept to grasp. “ It is the task of the enlightened not only to ascend to learning and to see the truth. It is the job of the people who already know the truth to help those who are being hindered from it. It is not their only job to learn the truth but to share it with others so that they may know the truth as well.

It is the job of the enlightened to do this even with the possibility of trouble. Plato wants to make a point that everyone should eventually learn truth. “ Most people, including ourselves, live in a world of relative ignorance. We are comfortable with that ignorance, because it is all we know. When we first start facing truth, the process may be frightening, and many people run back

to their Old ivies. But if you continue to seek truth, you will eventually be able to handle it better. In FAA CT, you want more!

It's true that many people around you now may think you are weird or even a danger to society, but you don't care. Once you've tasted the truth, you won't ever want to go back to being ignorant" Plato uses Socrates to make the point that though the truth may be shocking, it is better to know truth than live in a world of ignorance. We as people love ignorance because it's what we've always known and we are comfortable with it. The more you seek truth the less scary it gets. And once you've known truth you will never want to be ignorant again. Characters (name, role, significance, adjectives):

Socrates: Plato's teacher, the philosopher telling the story to his student, very intellectual, narrator of the metaphor, leads audience to conclusions through structured questions
 Glaucoma: The brother of Plato, interlocutor, serves as a receiver of the information, asks questions to Socrates to help portray the knowledge for the reader, audience
 Free man: The philosopher in the allegory, intellectually advanced, sees beyond the empirical world
 Prisoner: Metaphor to the common man, cannot see past the empirical world, does not understand the concept of knowledge beyond it

Setting: The cave or the world of sight/ignorance //The House of Cephalic

Significance of opening scene: Socrates asks Glaucoma to imagine a cave of prisoners that are chained up and have been immobilized since birth. They are only able to gaze at the wall in front of them. Socrates is setting up the scene for the entire allegory. He is creating an image of which he will use as a metaphor to knowledge, the overall purpose of the allegory. He uses an

allegory to demonstrate the effects and importance of education for the Phil
gopher. Symbols/motifs: