

Republic

Plato (tr. Benjamin Jowett)

How does the cave setup make a mistaken view of reality feel reasonable rather than foolish?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Book VII - opening of the Allegory of the Cave

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	And now, I said, let me show in a figure how far our nature is enlightened or unenlightened:
END	To them, I said, the truth would be literally nothing but the shadows of the images.
PASSAGE ID	sec-republic-cave-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how a thought experiment limits what a person can know before judging the person's belief

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The prisoners are not simply careless observers. They have been chained since childhood, can see only one direction, and experience voices and shadows without access to their causes. By carefully restricting their evidence, Plato makes their false conclusion understandable and prepares the distinction between appearance and knowledge.

MARK

Underline each physical limitation placed on the prisoners. Circle what they can actually see or hear. Box the sentence stating what they take to be truth. Draw an arrow from a limitation to the mistaken conclusion it helps produce.

NOTICE

- What evidence is available to the prisoners?

- What evidence is physically unavailable to them?
- Why would shadows seem like reality if a person had never experienced anything else?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the cave setup make a mistaken view of reality feel reasonable rather than foolish? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The cave makes error reasonable by controlling the prisoners' evidence. Because they have always been restrained and can observe only shadows and echoes, they form a conclusion that fits the world available to them even though the reader knows their evidence is incomplete.

EVIDENCE

Use one physical restriction and the statement that the prisoners take shadows for truth.

WATCH FOR

Do not jump immediately to what the cave “symbolizes.” First explain the logic of the setup: limited access produces a plausible but incomplete belief.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 10 · LESSON 298

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WORK	Republic
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Book VII - opening of the Allegory of the Cave
PASSAGE ID	sec-republic-cave-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

And now, I said, let me show in a figure how far our nature is enlightened or unenlightened:

END

To them, I said, the truth would be literally nothing but the shadows of the images.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline each physical limitation placed on the prisoners. Circle what they can actually see or hear. Box the sentence stating what they take to be truth. Draw an arrow from a limitation to the mistaken conclusion it helps produce.
2. **NOTICE** What evidence is available to the prisoners? What evidence is physically unavailable to them? Why would shadows seem like reality if a person had never experienced anything else?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does the cave setup make a mistaken view of reality feel reasonable rather than foolish?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.