

Think Like a Titan: Your 4th Grade Greek Philosophy Challenge

Evaluate the ethics of Epicurus, the logic of Zeno, and the courage of Hypatia through challenging scenarios that bridge ancient wisdom with modern dilemmas.

1. Imagine you see a classmate struggling to carry heavy books. Epicurus taught that true happiness comes from 'Ataraxia' (peace of mind and avoiding pain). From a Stoic perspective, why might Zeno suggest you help them?

- A. Because helping others is a duty that aligns with the natural order of reason.
- B. Because you might get a reward or a gold star from your teacher.
- C. Because it makes you look better than the other students who didn't help.
- D. Because the classmate promised to do your homework in return.

2. Hypatia of Alexandria believed that people should have the right to think and learn about math and philosophy, even if their ideas were different from the government's.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The philosopher Heraclitus famously said, 'No man ever steps in the same _____ twice,' because he believed the world is constantly changing.

- A. Puddle
- B. River
- C. Chariot
- D. Temple

4. Diogenes the Cynic lived in a large ceramic jar and owned almost nothing. If he saw someone throwing away a perfectly good toy because they wanted a newer, shinier one, what would he likely say?

- A. You should buy two more so you have a collection.
- B. Practical things are more important than fancy items that make you greedy.
- C. The shiny toy will make you much smarter than the old toy.
- D. You should hide the old toy so no one else can find it.

5. Thales of Miletus is often called the first philosopher because he looked for natural answers rather than repeating myths. Where did he believe all life originally came from?

- A. Thunderbolts from Zeus
- B. The heat of the Sun
- C. Water
- D. Stardust

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6. Pythagoras believed that the entire universe could be understood and explained through the use of numbers and music.

- A. True
- B. False

7. Democritus was an early philosopher who imagined that everything in the world was made of tiny, invisible particles called _____.

- A. Seeds
- B. Atoms
- C. Cells
- D. Dust

8. Epicurus taught that we should seek pleasure, but not the kind that makes us sick later. If you were following his advice, which 'pleasure' would he value most?

- A. Eating ten chocolate cakes in one sitting.
- B. Staying up all night playing loud video games.
- C. Having a quiet dinner and a deep conversation with a good friend.
- D. Winning a race by tripping another runner.

9. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus taught that we should worry deeply about things we cannot control, like the weather or what other people think of us.

- A. True
- B. False

10. How does Heraclitus' idea of 'change' help a scientist today?

- A. It reminds them that because things change, they must keep observing and testing.
- B. It tells them that since things change, they should just stop trying to learn.
- C. It proves that if you see it once, it will stay that way forever.
- D. It suggests that only magic causes things to move.