

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Stoic Stones and Golden Means: A 2nd Grade Ethics Quest

Second graders analyze the 'Middle Way' and Zeno's porch lessons to solve tricky classroom dilemmas during social-emotional learning sessions.

1. Imagine you are very hungry. Aristotle says we should find the 'Middle Way.' If one end is eating nothing and the other end is eating ten cakes, what is the 'Middle Way'?

- A. Eating twenty cakes to be safe
- B. Eating one healthy snack
- C. Crying because you are hungry
- D. Giving all your food away

2. A philosopher named Zeno taught that even if it rains on your picnic, you can still choose to be happy because you cannot control the weather.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Anaxagoras believed that everything in the world is made of tiny 'seeds.' If a person is made of these seeds, what happens when they grow?

- A. They run out of seeds
- B. They take in more seeds from food
- C. The seeds turn into water
- D. The seeds disappear forever

4. Heraclitus said, 'You cannot step into the same river twice.' Why did he think the river is always different?

- A. Because someone stole the water
- B. Because the water is always moving and changing
- C. Because the river turns into a road
- D. Because fish drink all the water

5. Epicurus taught that the best way to be happy is to buy the most expensive toys in the world.

- A. True
- B. False

6. Thales looked at the world and decided everything started from one thing. Since plants, animals, and people all need it to live, he said everything is made of ____.

- A. Rocks
- B. Fire
- C. Water
- D. Air

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7. If a friend is mean to you, a Stoic philosopher like Epictetus would tell you that you should:

- A. Be mean back to them
- B. Cry until they say sorry
- C. Keep your own mind calm and be kind
- D. Force them to be your friend

8. Pythagoras believed that the whole world could be understood using numbers. If he saw a beautiful song, what would he say made it beautiful?

- A. The colors of the instruments
- B. The number and patterns of the sounds
- C. How loud the singer can yell
- D. The name of the song

9. Diogenes the Cynic lived in a large barrel and told a powerful King to 'stand out of my sunlight' because he didn't care about money or fame.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Democritus imagined that everything is made of tiny bits called 'atoms' that can't be cut. If you swap the atoms of an apple with the atoms of a toy, what happens?

- A. They both stay the same
- B. The apple would look and feel like the toy
- C. The atoms would get angry
- D. Everything would disappear