



Questions

Philosophy For Young People

No. 4, Summer 2004

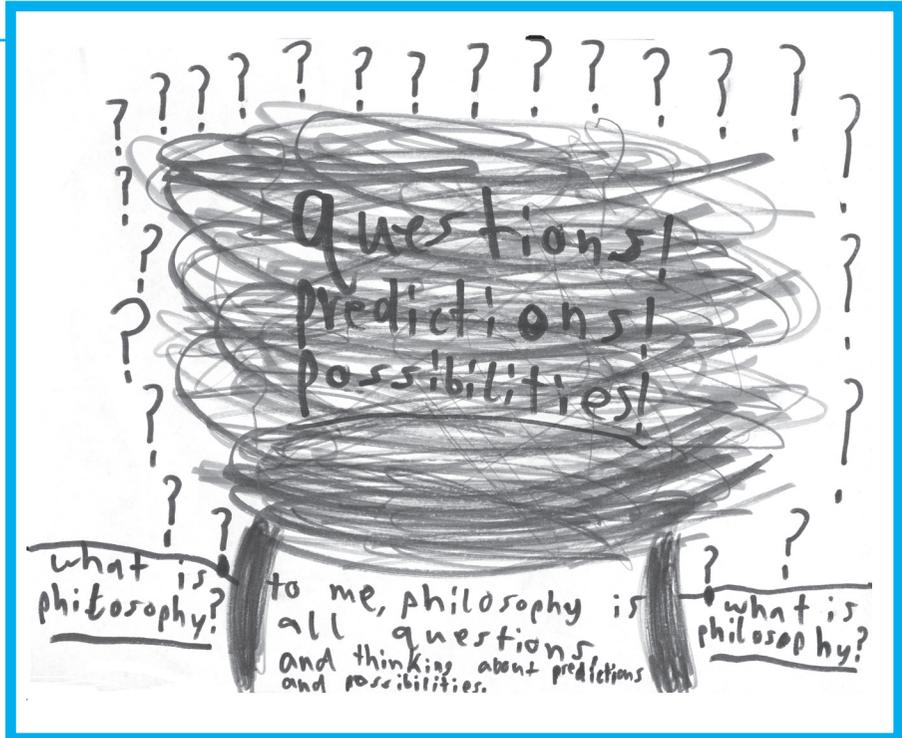
From the Editor

 We are very pleased to publish our fourth issue of *Questions: Philosophy for Young People*. When this project began in 2000 as a project of the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Pre-College Philosophy, we hoped to create a vehicle for demonstrating what young people can do when given the opportunity to reflect about the deep, unsettled questions that are at the core of philosophy. In this issue you will find students from grade school to high school thinking about the nature of God and exploring questions about love and art, as well as several articles about ways to discuss philosophical questions with K-12 students. We also are pleased to publish some of the winning entries from the Kids Philosophy Slam, a national philosophy contest for students from kindergarten through high school.

We hope that you enjoy the voices of the young people featured in this issue. Please join us in supporting the publication of young people's philosophical discussions, essays, poems and illustrations. Subscription information is on page 16.

Best wishes for a peaceful summer.

Jana Mohr Lone, Editor-in-Chief



"What is Philosophy?"

David Lone, grade 4

Methow Valley Elementary School, Winthrop, WA

What is Art?

By Kenneth Perrone, Grade 8 Student, Portland, Oregon

 Art has many different definitions, depending on the source you rely upon. If you were to stop me on the street and ask me what I thought the definition of art was, I would reply that art is any form of self-expression that is done by a human being for the purpose of expression. This includes all the things that students do in art class, but it is not limited to that. Design of material objects such as clothing, advertisements, furniture, automobiles, movies, music, and theatre are also included in my definition of art.

There are few qualifications that need to be met for something to be considered art by my definition. The major one is that the object has to express the artist's feelings somehow. It could be in the color of the object, the materials used, the use of buttons, ties, and zippers on clothing, the expression of the subject of a portrait, or the beat of a song. Some other factors are: it has to be a tangible item, meaning that if someone touched something with his bare hands he would leave fingerprints; it also has to be an original use of the materials used, meaning reprints do not count as art – it has to be original to be art; and the item cannot be mass produced by machines with the exceptions of furniture, clothing, and automobiles.

Art is a complicated topic to define due to the multiple opinions held by the public on this topic. There are many other aspects of art that need to be defined in order to arrive at a complete definition of art. Unfortunately, these topics cannot be discussed due to the limited amount of space.

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