



Questions

Philosophy For Young People

No. 9, Fall 2009

From the Editor



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this newest issue of *Questions*.

From its inception, *Questions* has been dedicated to displaying not only the work that pre-college students produce in philosophy, but also to provide a means of communication for those who do philosophy with young people. This issue meets both goals and, if I do say so myself, a really good read.

Inside you will find a variety of philosophical work (a poem, a dialogue, an essay, photos) by pre-college philosophers. This is in addition to our regular running of the winners of the Kid's Philosophy Slam. You will also find a "mini-focus" on personal identity activities—put together from unsolicited lesson plans by those doing pre-college philosophy. What else? How about a description of the program that Michigan State graduate students run at a local middle school? (This is near to my heart since I got my own start in philosophy for young people by helping to run this very program!) Finally, but not at all least, is a review of two works by Christopher Phillips geared toward children.

Putting together *Questions* is always a labor of love, and I am glad to be able to continue to do so. I would be remiss to acknowledge that a long-time member of our board, Rosalind Ladd, has stepped down. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining, please let me know at QuestionsJournal@gmail.com.

Keep in touch!

Rory

Philosophy and Society

Danielle Orchant



Seldom have I met a high school student who raves about his or her love of philosophy. I have, of course, met many people who claim, "I **HATE** philosophy" or "Philosophy just IS NOT for me." There seems to be a widespread stigma attached to those who study philosophy, that their analyses are somehow insignificant or impertinent to the "real world." These insinuations are not only frustrating, but they are, in fact, ludicrous. Those who claim that philosophy has no place in real world events do not have a clear view of what the real world truly is; the most fundamental question in western philosophy is, in fact, "What is real?" No one knows what truly is. We have yet to provide the world with a definite proof of the existence of any entity. So, how can one make the claim that philosophy has no place in the "real world", when that person is not even aware of what is real and what is not?

The next question, of course, would be "But why does philosophy *matter*? Why does it matter to me, and why does it matter to anyone else?" It is true that many people have lived their lives contently without having ever read philosophical theory. However, those who have a place in the "big picture",

(continued on page 2)



Photo by Stephanie Lamont

Start

Contents

Philosophy and Society.....	1
Editorial Board	2
To Clone or not to Clone?.....	2
Woes of a Philosopher	3
Adventures with the Wonderful Mr. Potato Head.....	4
Ageless Questions.....	4
Take My Arms, But Not My Head.....	5
Kids Philosophy Slam.....	5
Announcement: Kids Philosophy Slam Competition.....	5
Finalists, 2009 Kids Philosophy Slam, High School.....	8
A Day in Philosophy for Kids at Chippewa Middle School....	10
Call for Submissions.....	13
Book Reviews	13
<i>Ceci Ann's Day of Why</i>	
<i>The Philosophers Club</i>	
Subscription Information.....	14