

Discussion Guide for Plato's "The Allegory of the Cave"

Aim: What is an allegory? How does Plato use the allegory of the cave to define truth? How does this relate to Frankenstein.?

1. Make an group illustration of the cave or physically perform it.
2. Describe other "caves" in modern life in which people might be "imprisoned" or feel "imprisoned".
3. If a prisoner is released from the cave and compelled to look toward the light, what will he experience? Why?
4. What are the stages of the liberated prisoner's experience outside the cave?
5. If the liberated prisoner goes back to the cave and tries to explain to his former fellow prisoners, what kind of reaction will he get? Why?
6. What is truth according to Plato in this allegory?
7. To what extent do you find Socrates point about human tendency to confuse "shadows" with "reality" relevant today?
8. What could be the elements that prevent people from seeing the truth, or regarding "shadow" as the "truth"?