

English 9

“Allegory of the Cave” discussion prep

Please think through these questions as you read Plato’s text

1. Draw the images described on the first page.
2. What limitations do the prisoners face?
3. What process does the escaped prisoner undergo?
4. How does the freed prisoner feel about the remaining prisoners?
5. How do the prisoners feel about the freed prisoner?
6. What tentative ideas do you have about the meaning of the following allegorical elements?
 - a. cave
 - b. shadows
 - c. game
 - d. escape
 - e. return

Ultimately, the purpose of the discussion is to link the “Allegory of the Cave” to Augustine’s newfound Neo-Platonist ideas in Book 7. How does Augustine’s thinking progress via ideas such as these?