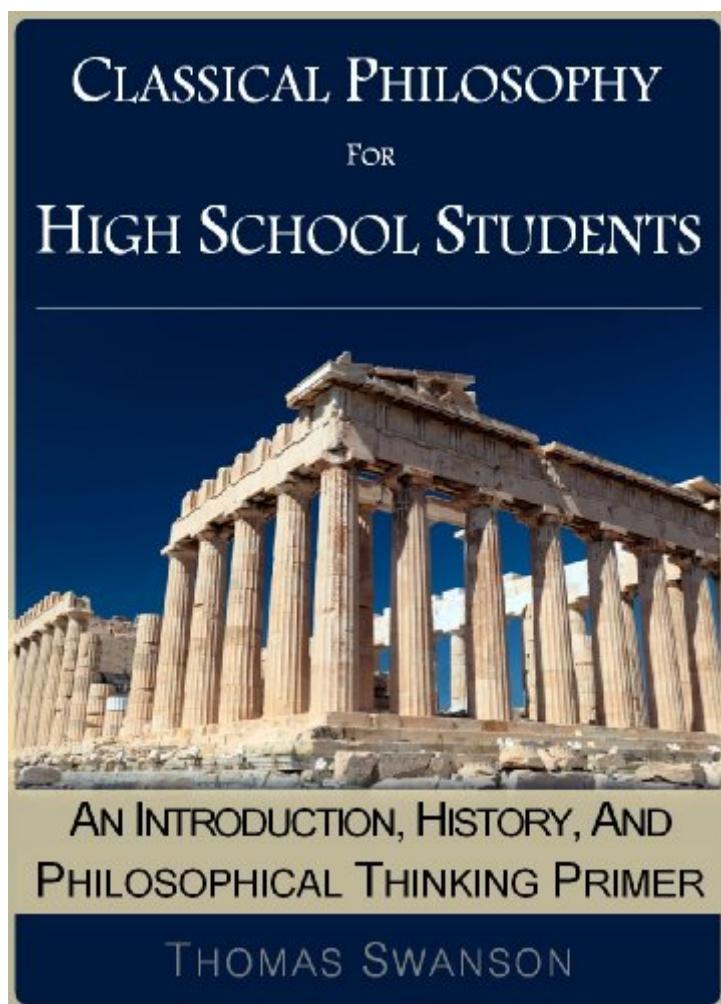


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Classical Philosophy For High School Students: An Introduction, History, And Philosophical Thinking Primer



Synopsis

Are you a high school student? Parent? Congratulations! You are creating the future of your life and the life of this country. Sadly, in both the school systems and popular culture Philosophy and philosophical thinking are almost totally neglectedâ "and sometimes even scorned. To those of us who think outside the box, this is a problem. Whether you want to supplement your education with a new topic, pursue an existing interest in philosophy, or are just curious, this book will give you something unique and valuable. Author Thomas Swanson paints a contrary picture of what philosophy and philosophical thinking really is in this uncommon book sharing how he believes the quest of philosophy really started; in wonderâ "in the hearts of curious men and women in awe of a wonderful world. In this book you will:â ¢ Learn what philosophy really is, beneath the connotations and negative senses it often has in our cultureâ ¢ Begin to develop your personal skill of philosophical thinkingâ ¢ Enjoy an engaging first pass at the history of classical philosophyâ ¢ In short, you will learn to wonder from the greatest wonderers in the history of mankind. The book starts off with a surprising description of the philosophical spirit, one that is inspired by wonder. Then we follow five main early Greek philosophers, including Plato and Aristotle, learning from them as they together tackle an ancient philosophical question. Finally, the strategies of philosophical thinking are tied together in a charming conversation between a New York taxi driver and a professor of philosophy, who you'll see become a philosopher before your very eyes! This is an introduction to philosophy and philosophical thinking like no other. Enjoy!

Book Information

File Size: 559 KB

Print Length: 88 pages

Publication Date: January 8, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AYS0B8E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #796,941 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20

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Customer Reviews

Most people have learned at some time in their lives that "philosophy" means "love of wisdom." Yet, we don't often associate the "love of wisdom" with normal folks. When we think of "love of wisdom," we might think of an old sage with a long beard sitting in an obscure shrine, probably cross-legged, achieving enlightenment...or we might think of a bespectacled gentleman puffing his pipe and pondering imponderables in his book-filled study. While such characters are interesting, they aren't representative of most of us. In this fresh primer on philosophy, Thomas Swanson shows us that such images of the philosophical life are narrow at best. The seeds of the philosophical spirit are in all of us because everyone wonders. Swanson nurtures the seed of wonder, showing us what it is aimed at, giving us a glimpse of how it grew into the mighty oak of ancient Greek philosophy, and laying out a path we might follow to nourish the seed of philosophy to grow in our own souls. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to learn about what philosophy really is and who wants to grow into a lover of wisdom.

This book does a great job of explaining the worldview of ancient philosophers in an easy way and shows us how far our 3G, iPad culture is from these writers. It has made me think much differently about everyday things in my regular life and consider what it means to contemplate "normal" things.

The author reviews philosophical thinking in a readily accessible manner that adds both context and fun to the process. I certainly learned something from this work and enjoyed doing so.

Thomas Swanson is like a voice crying out in the desert, calling us out of our intellectual slumber and back into wonder where true philosophy is born. Wonder is a Verb brings us back to our child like awe of the world to recapture the delight of inquiry. As an aside, I think that every high school administrator needs to read this book and capture a vision for bringing wonder back into the classroom. The fact that the subject of philosophy isn't taught in secondary schools in the US speaks volumes to the reality of a systematic devaluing of intellectual curiosity in favor of a pragmatic "education."

Knowing more about the great philosophers was on my "to-do-SOMETIMEN" list. This book made what I thought was going to be an arduous task approachable and though not easy, certainly doable. Thanks, Mr. Swanson.

The thing I love about this book is it makes difficult concepts easy to understand. Better yet, the chapters are short and sweet. I am a pretty busy guy, but I also like to think deep. I don't always have time to read long treatises on philosophy. This is why I strongly recommend this book.

I liked this book very much. I would recommend it to people who would like to "round out" their education, but don't know where to start. I would also suggest it to someone who is already interested in philosophical topics, but cannot always explain to others why such thinking is helpful, and not an impractical use of time. This book will help both types of readers see that a life of wonder is practically helpful, but also its own reward.

In this work, Swanson does an excellent job of parsing down this monumental subject to distill not merely what philosophy is, but why it should be pursued. Readers who have never philosophized before will find that, unexpectedly, they have and will be encouraged to do so more and to greater ends. Yet even the seasoned thinker will find refreshment to see the joy of wonder and its power anew. Highly recommended.

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