



## Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas

By Sharon Kaye, Paul Thomson

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*Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas* offers an in-depth, teenager-friendly look at the philosophy behind everyday issues. The authors examine some of life's biggest topics, such as lying, cheating, love, beauty, the role of government, hate, and prejudice, in this casual and engaging book, written directly for and field-tested with teenagers.

Both sides of the debates are covered on every issue, with information from some of the world's most noted philosophers included in a conversational style that teenagers will love. Examining life's big ideas and discovering their own opinions has never been easier or more exciting for today's teens.

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## Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas By Sharon Kaye, Paul Thomson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #256862 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Prufrock Press
- Published on: 2006-09-01
- Released on: 2006-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .47" w x 8.50" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Challenging teens to think, this 14-lesson guide introduces major philosophers who have shaped modern Western thought. Explaining the ideas of Plato, Socrates, Aquinas, Locke, Mills, Nietzsche, Sartre, and others through contemporary scenarios, the authors make these great thinkers accessible to teens. Given today's emphasis on mastery of standardized tests, it is important to have material that encourages students to use critical-thinking skills and for which there are no absolute right or wrong answers. The chapters cover Beauty (What is the Purpose of Art?); Truth (Is Lying Always Wrong?); Justice (Who Will Take Care of the Environment?); and God (Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?). They include dramatic skits, background on multiple philosophical views, and challenges to construct "thought experiments," imagining a world in which a single philosophy dominates. Discussion questions, activities, community projects, and further readings accompany each lesson. Teachers can use this resource to generate lively debate or to enrich courses in art, religion, history, science, or literature, but they're sure to miss an index when they want to review what individual philosophers said or the sections in which they were mentioned.—*Kathy Lehman, Thomas Dale High School Library, Chester, VA*

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### **About the Author**

For the past several years, Sharon M. Kaye, Ph.D., and Paul Thomson, Ph.D., taught philosophy to high school students through the Carroll-Cleveland Philosopher's Program, which won the 2006 American Philosophical Association Award for Excellence and Innovation in Philosophy Programs. They continue to promote the teaching of philosophy to secondary students. Philosophy, the authors believe, allows students to formulate intelligent opinions on major life issues; therefore, their book asks students to make reasoned, informed decisions about some of life's greatest debates. Kaye currently serves as an associate professor of philosophy at John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH. Thomson currently serves as Philosopher-in-Residence at Columbia Secondary School, a magnet school in New York City, where he coordinates the school's philosophy courses.

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