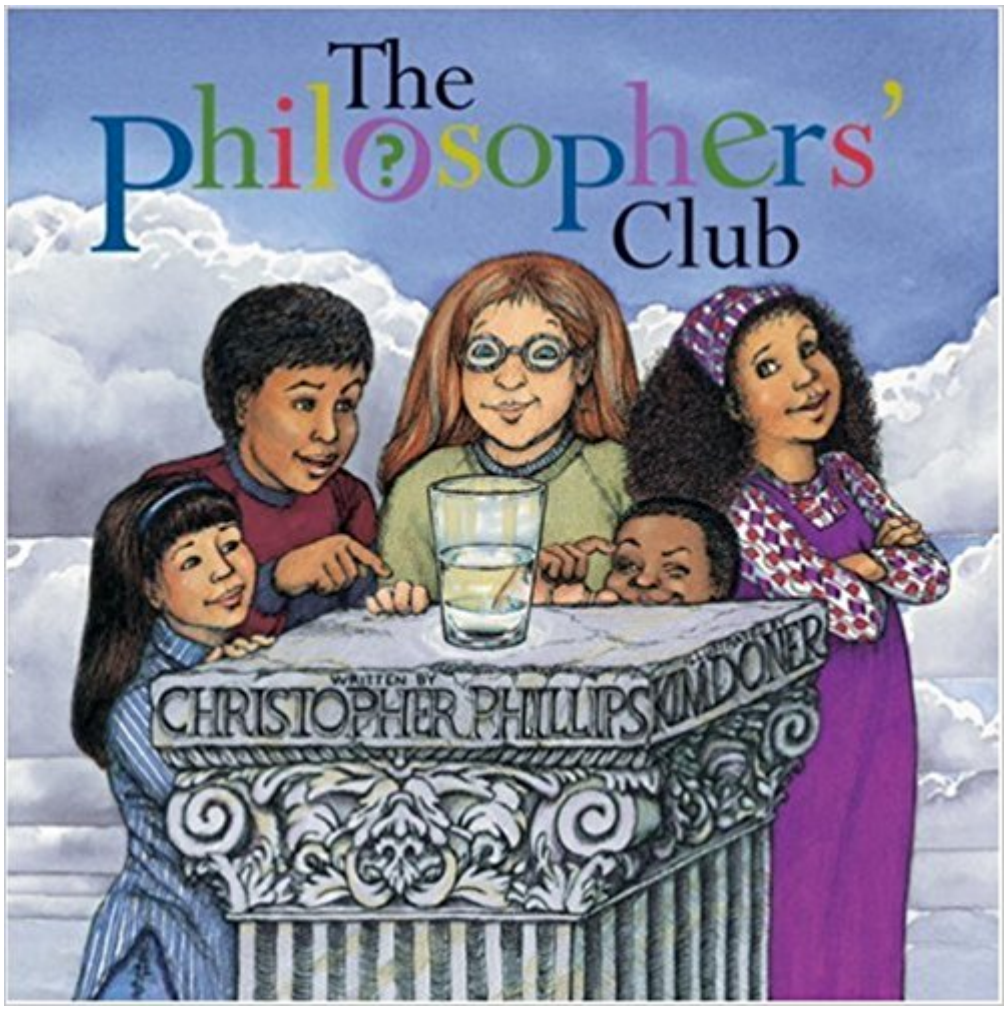
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The Philosophers' Club



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Synopsis

What is silence? What is wisdom? How do you know you’re here? Socratic dialogueÃ¢â ¬â •for kids? At least the answer to this last question is an easy, resounding Yes! The rest you’ll have to think about and discuss with your friends, which is just what philosopher Christopher Phillips is hoping for. He has long been leading thinkers of all ages on a thoughtful and thought-filled quest for knowledge, and this picturebook models for young children that mulling over some of life’s big questions can be done anytime, anywhere. A finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in the design/illustration category. Ã¢â ¬Â¢ A novel teacher resource.Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Educators, please visit our Resources section, above, for teaching guides and curricula.Ã Â

Book Information

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: Tricycle Press (March 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582460396

ISBN-13: 978-1582460390

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 10.2 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #810,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Philosophy #1037 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 4 - 9 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 4

Customer Reviews

Gr 5-7-This book is based on the premise that Socratic dialogues with and among children will result in an enhanced ability for them to think for themselves. The author gives examples of questions to ponder, such as "What is silence?" "Are the mind and the brain the same thing?" and the ever-popular "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" While it is certainly true that students need to develop the ability to think clearly and make good decisions, this book isn’t likely to further the process. The inquiries and dialogues, which change quickly from one page to the next, may confuse some readers about what topic is being addressed. The colorful illustrations suggest that this book is meant for elementary children, but the points are likely to be missed by young, concrete

thinkers.Lynn Dye, Keheley Elementary School, Marietta, GACopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"As a teacher, I don’t see how anyone would do anything but use the Socratic method." Ã¢â ¬â •reviewer David Ross, Long Beach Press-TelegramÃ¢â ¬Å“[Will help kids] wrestle with the big questions."Ã¢â ¬â • The Providence JournalReviewer Susan Faust wrote that the book is great for children "to get experience in thinking deep thoughts."Ã¢â ¬â •The San Francisco Chronicle "A largely successful attempt to introduce philosophyÃ¢â ¬Â¦to ordinary kids. . . . [use it to] challenge young readers to think and ask their own questions." Ã¢â ¬â •Kathleen Krull

I am beginning a philosophers club this year in the middle school. This will be part of my readaloud to get things started.

"The Philosophers’ Club" is a fantastic effort to lead students into a thinking mode. Christopher Phillips took his text from his own teaching experience with students. Sort of text out of context. If another classroom or homeschool teacher or parent wants to adapt this text per se, I think they will have difficulty. They will need to read other background philosophy books to even understand what Mr. Phillips is attempting because "The Philosophers’ Club" reads like the conclusion of a unit Mr. Phillips taught. However, I applaud his efforts to teach children the deeper meaning of wisdom, how to think, how to ask questions, how to discuss potential answers, and how not to take things for granted. All of his goals are worthy.Here are just a few books that could be used in conjuction with "The Philosophers’ Club." After all, one needs a text to have a context! One needs information before a club can be established.Young Person’s Guide to PhilosophyThe Examined Life: Advanced Philosophy for KidsWise Guy: The Life and Philosophy of SocratesPhilosophy and the Young Child (Harvard Paperbacks)

I am eager to try this book with some of my classes, but I haven’t used it yet. I like the format - first he takes you through a discussion of a particular question and then he asks a lot of related questions. I have been looking for a book that would help children explore significant questions about their world. This may help.

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