PLATO (Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization) is a national non-profit organization working with educators and philosophers to bring philosophy to K-12 students, including those least likely to have access to it. PLATO celebrates diversity and endorses wide-ranging educational methods and approaches. Initiatives include:

• Offering a wealth of free web resources;
• Hosting a biennial precollege philosophy conference;
• Sponsoring teaching workshops, contests and awards;
• *Questions*, its official journal; and
• Supporting research and advocacy on behalf of precollege philosophy.

Much of PLATO’s work is carried out locally through its growing national network of university-based Centers.

For more information on introducing young students to philosophy, and to learn how you can support PLATO, visit our website: www.plato-philosophy.org
Children frequently ask open-ended, philosophical questions – questions with no easy or single answer:

- What is time?
- What does it mean to be good?
- Are numbers real?
- What is fairness?

But they don’t often have an opportunity to explore these questions in school.

Discussing philosophical questions is intellectually enriching, fostering the very skills students most need for success.

Young people introduced to philosophy learn to:

- Become critical, analytical thinkers
- Become more engaged with their own learning
- Evaluate assumptions and information based on sound reasoning and analysis
- Communicate their own views logically and clearly
- Think independently
- Consider and respect diverse viewpoints

When young people reflect on philosophical questions – whether in a philosophy class or embedded across the curriculum – they question their assumptions and share insights relevant to their lives. In time, they become more confident in their ability to express their ideas and perspectives, and more interested in learning about themselves and the world around them. Through philosophy, children also learn that there are many ways to approach complex questions.

“If you can think well about the questions at the heart of philosophy, you can think well about anything.”

- Second grade student

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