



Questions

Philosophy For Young People

No. 5, Summer 2005

From the Editor



We are very pleased to publish our fifth issue of *Questions: Philosophy for Young People*. It is hard to believe that this project began five years ago! We thank the American Philosophical Association and its Committee on Pre-College Philosophy, and the Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children, for their continued support and encouragement. In this issue you will find students from kindergarten to high school exploring questions about the meaning of life, truth and beauty, and the nature of the self, as well as several articles by teachers about ways to discuss philosophical questions with K-12 students. We also are pleased for the second year to publish some of the winning entries from the Kids Philosophy Slam, a national philosophy contest for students from kindergarten through high school.

We hope that you enjoy the voices of the young people featured in this issue. Please join us in supporting the publication of young people's philosophical discussions, essays, poems, and illustrations. Subscription information is on page 16.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Jana Mohr Lone, Editor-in-Chief



Truth: Do perspectives alter truth?
Alice McClain and Mary Rothlisberger
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia

I, Robot: An Analysis of Love

by Fermin Martinez

Fermin Martinez is a sophomore at Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren, New Jersey, who attended the "Introduction to Philosophy" class taught there by John Cleary, a doctoral student in Philosophy for Children at Montclair State University.



His name was MuR-R-Y. Somewhere along the lines, I began to call him Murrur.¹ His blond hair and blue eyes made him look like a Botticelli angel. With tan skin and an excellent physique, he was really a sight to behold.

A custom-built robot, he cost me a good thousand, but was worth every penny. Programmed to imitate human speech, emotion, gestures—he even sweats and cries. A unique personality created just for me. As I watch him now, asleep next to me, engines and pumps mimicking light breathing, heat receptors warming the bed around him, synthetic hair becoming messy, I wonder what this emotion rising up inside me could be.

I choke it back, afraid to admit it to myself.

I get out of bed to shower.

I decided to order him after my boyfriend left me. Left with a lot of money and possessions in my father's will, and no one to share it with, I didn't see a reason why not. He arrived in a plastic package which made him look like a giant Ken Doll. For the first six days² I wouldn't go near him. But then I got up the courage to activate him and took him out. He was just a foot taller than me, making him six foot. It required that I program a "Password" that, if ever uttered in his presence, would shut him off permanently.

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