



# Questions

Philosophy For Young People

No. 7, Summer 2007

## From the Editors



One of our goals for *Questions* is to balance presenting exceptional philosophical work done by pre-college students with materials that assist in doing pre-college philosophy. We are particularly happy to bring you this well-balanced issue.

Inside you'll find an essay on free will as well as a more overtly political essay that examines the nature of philosophy. Both were written by talented high school students. In addition, we are pleased to once again print the winning entries in the Kids Philosophy Slam.

We also have an intriguing discussion of philosophical themes in Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice* books, an overview of a successful community outreach philosophy program, and two explicitly pedagogical essays by authors who have worked with middle school students. Finally and for the first time, we introduce book reviews to *Questions*, anticipating that they will be a regular feature.

We encourage everyone to submit materials related to doing philosophy with, by, and for young people. The deadline for submissions is March 31st. All submissions to *Questions* undergo blind review; the editorial board collectively determines which submissions will run, without knowing who wrote each piece.

Enjoy this issue and join us for future issues as reader, contributor, or both.

Rory E. Kraft, Jr. and Alison Reiheld

## The High School Philosophy Seminar and Philosophical Positivism

### Learning to be Excited About Philosophy with High School Students

Steve Wood



"Could God heat a burrito so hot that even he couldn't eat it?," pondered Max at a session of the High School Philosophy Seminar. That meeting's conversation revolved around the age-old conundrum of what constitutes our individual identities and how we come to know those identities. While I doubt that Max had his puzzle sufficiently solved, he managed to stimulate a lively debate among his peers over which characteristics could constitute God's identity. This sort of engagement with the historic questions of philosophy (and some of the new) is what the High School Philosophy Seminar is all about.

The High School Philosophy Seminar, or HSPS as it has been dubbed by its participants, is an after-school philosophy seminar based at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. The seminar's leaders, who are all undergraduates at George Washington, form teams that visit local high schools once a week to lead a philosophical discussion with interested students.

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Photo by Greg Smith

*What Happens to Time When We Stop Timekeeping?*

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