

Reading Questions for August 28

These questions cover a reading by Plato called *Crito*. The questions only go up to page 51; we'll read the rest on Monday. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This is a dialogue written by an ancient Greek philosopher named Plato about his teacher, Socrates, who was sentenced by jury to death in Athens. In the dialogue, which takes place after the sentencing, Socrates is encouraged by his friend Crito to escape from Athens. He instead chooses to stay and die and explains his reasons for thinking he should not break the law and escape.

*Questions:*

1. On page 47, in the three paragraphs starting with “Crito: Too clear ...” Crito gives an argument that Socrates should escape. What is this argument?
2. On pages 49-51, starting with “Socrates: Come then, what of ...” and ending with “... rather than do wrong” Socrates offers an objection to Crito’s argument that makes use of an analogy. What is the analogy? What is the point Socrates is making with the analogy? What do you think – does Socrates offer a good objection to Crito’s argument?