

Reading Questions for August 31

These questions cover a reading by Plato called *Crito*. We have already read through page 51, now we're reading the rest. 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 52, Socrates says, "One should never do wrong in return, nor do any man harm, no matter what he may have done to you." Does this seem right to you? Why or why not?
2. On page 53-4, in a long paragraph starting with "Socrates: Then what if ..." Socrates gives one argument for the conclusion that it is unjust to violate the laws of a city. The argument involves some comparisons between a city and a parent. What is the argument? Is it plausible?
3. On pages 54-6, starting with "Socrates: Reflect now ..." and ending on the top of the page with "leaving the city" Socrates gives a second argument for the conclusion that it is unjust to violate the laws of a city. The argument involves consent. What is this argument? Is it plausible?