

Getting Started in Philosophy – Some Reading and Listening Suggestions

From Professor Angie Hobbs – sent to the RPSG, December 2015

Introductory Guides

Think: a Compelling Introduction to Philosophy by Simon Blackburn, Oxford Paperbooks 2001

The Big Questions: Philosophy by Simon Blackburn, Quercus Publishing 2009

Mortal Questions by Thomas Nagel, Cambridge University Press 1991 (first published 1979)

What Does It all Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy by Thomas Nagel, Oxford University Press 1987

A Little History of Philosophy by Nigel Warburton, Yale University Press 2001

Audiobooks

Philosophy for the Curious by Mark Vernon, Hodder and Stoughton 2010

Ethics for the Curious by Mark Vernon, Hodder and Stoughton 2010

Philosophy Texts

Hume *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (first published 1751)

Mill *Utilitarianism* (first published 1861) and *On Liberty* (first published in 1859)

Plato *Symposium* (probably written c.384 BC), *Gorgias* (probably written in the 380s BC) and *Republic* (probably written in the 370s BC)

Websites

Philosophy Bites: <http://www.philosophybites.com/> (There are also two books based on some of these interviews: *Philosophy Bites* and *Philosophy Bites Back*, both edited by David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton and published by Oxford University Press.)

History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps: <http://www.historyofphilosophy.net>

In Our Time: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/in-our-time/archive/> (There is also an *In Our Time* book)

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

I should declare some vested interests: I am one of the panellists in both *Philosophy for the Curious* and *Ethics for the Curious*; I have been interviewed twice for *Philosophy Bites* (Plato on Love and Plato on War) and a rewritten version of the Plato on Love interview appears in *Philosophy Bites Back*; I have taken part in many of the *In Our Time* discussions and the Socrates programme appears in the book.

Philosophy for Children – Some Suggestions for Reading

The Philosophy Shop (edited by Peter Worley), Independent Thinking Press 2012 (Independent Thinking Press is an imprint of Crown House Publishing). This book contains a wide range of stories, puzzles and activities, plus philosophical questions, and each entry suggests a suitable starting age (from 7-16).

The If Odyssey by Peter Worley, A & C Black 2012 (A & C Black is an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc). This retells various tales from Homer's *Odyssey* and explores the philosophical questions that arise from them (from 8-16).

Sophie's World by Jostein Gardner, Phoenix Press 1991. A novel designed to introduce early teens (though younger children might also enjoy it) to philosophical questions and ways of thinking.

Really, Really Big Questions by Stephen Law, Kingfisher 2009 (mainly aimed at primary school children).

100 Ideas for Secondary Teachers: Teaching Philosophy and Ethics by John L. Taylor, Bloomsbury 2014.

Think Again: a Philosophical Approach to Teaching by John L. Taylor, Continuum 2012 (mainly aimed at those working with older children).

I would also recommend exploring the work of both the Philosophy Foundation (www.philosophy-foundation.org who are behind the first two books in the above list) and SAPERE (www.sapere.org.uk), two of the main organizations involved with philosophy in schools.

I should declare an interest in that I contributed a story to *The Philosophy Shop* and wrote the Foreword to *The If Odyssey*. I am also an Honorary Patron of the Philosophy Foundation.

Angie Hobbs own website:

<http://angiehobbs.com/>

on Desert Island Discs February 2015:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b050yh93>