

FOUNDATIONS OF CIVILIZATION CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY IN *SOPHIE'S WORLD* BY: JOSTEIN GAARDER

Reading Project

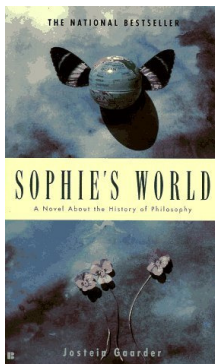
Due Date: The First Day of the Fall Term

Directions: Students will read the novel, mentally addressing many of the major themes, issues, ideas, or philosophies from the time frames covered in the novel. Students must be prepared to discuss, defend, and articulate the book's topic matter the first couple of days during an in-class discussion, when they return from summer break. There will be a test over the novel immediately following the class discussions. You will find helpful information on the topics to consider in my website's project page:

http://tweb.lisd.net/josh_banks/Project%20Page.htm. Click on **Sophie's World** link.

Topics: Democritus' Philosophy, Fate/Stoicism, Socrates' Philosophy, Plato's Philosophy (Platonic Ideas), Realism, Aristotle's Philosophy, Hellenism, Descartes' Philosophical Ideas, Dualism, Parallelism/Epiphenomenalism, Spinoza's Rationalism, Empiricism, Locke's Philosophy, Hume's Ideas, Berkeley's Subjective Idealism, Enlightenment, Rationalism, Skepticism, Kant's Copernican Revolution in Philosophy, Romanticism, Hegel's Absolute Idealism, Kierkegaard's Point of View (Existentialism), Marx (Materialism), Darwin (Evolution), Freud's Philosophy, Mysticism, Humanism, Epicureans, The Myth of the Cave

Small Excerpt- This long, dense novel, a bestseller in the author's native Norway, offers a summary history of philosophy embedded in a philosophical mystery disguised as a children's book-but



only sophisticated young adults would be remotely interested. Sophie Amundsen is about to turn 15 when she receives a letter from one Alberto Knox, a philosopher who undertakes to educate her in his craft. Sections in which we read the text of Knox's lessons to Sophie about the pre-Socratics, Plato and St. Augustine alternate with those in which we find out about Sophie's life with her well-meaning mother. Soon, though, Sophie begins receiving other, stranger missives addressed to one Hilde Moller Knag from her absent father, Albert. As Alberto Knox's lessons approach this century, he and Sophie come to suspect that they are merely characters in a novel written by Albert for his daughter. Teacher and pupil hatch a plot to understand and possibly escape from their situation; and from there, matters get only weirder.