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## Allegory of the cave summary pdf free printable pdf download

"The learning and knowledge that we have is, at the most, but little compared with that of which we are ignorant." These wise words were said by the Greek Philosopher, Plato. To understand the depth of these words we will understand the allegory of the cave which was presented by Plato in Book VII of "The Republic". The three prisoners In the allegory, there were three prisoners chained to the wall of a cave all their lives and had no knowledge of the outside world. They faced a blank wall while a fire behind them gave off a faint light. On the wall they saw shadows being projected; they saw objects and other animal's shadows and gave names to classify the shadows. They believed their reality is the actual reality. Freed Prisoner One day a prisoner was freed and brought to the outside world for the first time. When he saw the outside, the sun's bright light almost blinds him, he finds the new environment confusing and out of place as for him the two-dimensional shadows were his reality. When he was told that all the objects he is seeing are real and shadows are just reflections he couldn't believe it. But gradually his eyes adjusted to reality and he was able to differentiate objects from their reflections and could finally look at the sun. Return to the cave The prisoner returned to the cave and shared his discovery with the other prisoners. Not being used to the darkness anymore he couldn't see the shadows. The prisoners believed that the other prisoner's journey has made him stupid and blind. They refused to leave the cave and resisted his attempts to free them. Ignorance chains you from looking beyond your reality Plato explains this allegory as an analogy of what it is like to be a philosopher trying to educate the public. The philosopher is like the caveman who got out of the cave and explored the outside world; when he tried to share this with the other prisoners they were hostile towards him, they refused to perceive a higher reality and didn't even desire to get out of the cave. They were comfortable in their ignorance and didn't want to get out of their comfort for a better life. In life we are sometimes confined to our reality, chained in ignorance. We don't look beyond our perception. In ignorance we are at comfort, ignorance is bliss. But once we break out of our comfort zone and escape from the cave we will realise that things in our physical world are as flawed as the shadows on the wall of the cave. Maybe one day we will discover their ideal forms. Maybe someday we will discover something beyond our perception of reality, perhaps a four-dimensional world until then be open to escape the chains of ignorance and step outside the cave. The text is formatted as a dialogue between Plato and his brother, Glaucon. Within this conversation, they discuss what would happen if a group of prisoners realized the world they were watching was a lie.Plato uses this allegory as a way to discuss the deceptive appearances of things we see in the real world. Through it, he encourages people to instead focus on the abstract realm of ideas.In a literal sense, a movie is just a series of images. But digging deeper, they present unique ideas and themes that we can take with us into the real world.Numerous movies utilize this concept in their plots and themes. You can likely think of plenty of films where a character believes one reality and then becomes exposed to another, greater reality and is never the same. Let's examine some very different films and how they all utilize this allegory. You can see how universal it is and how it can be applied to your own film.PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE SUMMARYUse the allegory to emphasize themeThere's something inherently haunting about Plato's allegory. A person has to recognize everything up until this point in their life has been a lie. What if when they finally recognize the lie, they resort to violent revolution?That's the question Jordan Peele poses in his film Us, which is one of the most blatant Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" examples in film history. Watch this terrifying scene and see what similarities you can find between it and Plato's cave.The scene holds many direct correlations with the "Allegory of the Cave." For starters, the tethered family stands in front of a fire, casting shadows on the room. This is a direct reference to the fire in the cave, casting shadows for the prisoners to view.Red also makes several references to shadows. Specifically, how they are the shadows to the regular family. They have not been "real" for so long, but now, they have come to take their place in the sun.Us could almost be viewed as an alternative version of the allegory. Namely, what if the prisoner returned to the cave and all of the other prisoners wanted to follow him out? They saw other people living normal lives, making them angry.This thought experiment plays nicely into the film's themes of income inequality and how once the lower classes realize how they have been kept down, they will revolt.There's an interesting passage within Plato's cave allegory about descending back down into the cave that we wouldn't be surprised if it directly influenced Peele's film.Plato suggests that since the prisoners would likely react violently to someone coming back and telling them of the outside world that it wouldn't be in one's best interest to descend back into the cave.It's an intriguing concept in the context of a film about people who literally live underground and are prevented from living a rich, full life. Peele took an ancient concept and applied it to real world scenarios, proving there is still much society can learn from Plato's cave.PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE MEANINGUse the allegory to inspire hopeIn Us, knowledge is ultimately society's downfall. The tethered hold hands in the sun, leaving destruction in their wake. It's a somewhat pessimistic view of the cave allegory, but what about a story that looked on it more positively.Enter The Lego Movie. While there are a lot of zany hijinks throughout the film, we learn at the climax that none of this was happening from the Lego figures' own accords. Emmet discovers they were just being played with by a boy and his dad.The idea that there is something out there beyond our understanding is often framed as horrific. Movies like Us and The Matrix portray a group of people being subdued against their will while a dark truth remains hidden to most.But knowledge doesn't have to be scary. It can open whole new worlds and allow us to see existence from a different perspective. It's this journey outside of Plato's cave that allows Emmet to finally communicate with Lord President Business and save the day.Emmet starts the movie with the belief he is the Special. This is the prisoner who can only see shadows. The prisoner believes this is real.By the end, Emmet recognizes that everyone is the Special. His beliefs have been replaced by knowledge. It's a pretty philosophically-rich film for something based around toys.PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE EXAMPLESUse the allegory to affect changeThere's an interesting aspect to the "Allegory of the Cave" that's too often overlooked. It's the third part of the story where the freed prisoner returns to the cave. But this time, the darkness blinds him since he's become accustomed to the sunlight.It's the belief that once we've accumulated knowledge, we can't go back to ignorance. For our last example, let's look at The Truman Show.It's one of the clearest adaptations of the allegory. Truman Burbank lives in a false reality where people film his life to be broadcast into millions of households. Until one day, he discovers it's all a lie.It's a simple act: a light falling from the sky. But Truman can't let it go. He now possesses the knowledge that something isn't right in this world, and he needs to investigate.While The Truman Show is one of the most direct adaptations of the "Allegory of the Cave," many films, knowingly or not, utilize this idea. A character begins in a state of ignorance. They must then traverse out of this state into a field of knowledge.Ultimately, Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" meaning is to describe what it means to grow as a person, and any screenwriter can learn from that.Much like The Hero's Journey, as defined by Joseph Campbell, drawing inspiration from the "Allegory of the Cave" is often intrinsically linked to storytelling. Whether you like it or not, you've likely written pieces at least partially inspired from the allegory because you've watched so many films utilize this template.It's an ever-present allegory you've known about for a long time even if you didn't know its name.So for your screenwriters, consider this allegory of Plato's cave another tool in your belt you can call in when you need some help figuring out what your characters should do next.Why do they want to escape their state of ignorance? What do they find on the outside? What would happen if they returned? How might others react to the knowledge the character now possesses? All of these questions can help you create stronger, more compelling scripts.UP NEXTAllegory defined with examplesThe "Allegory of the Cave" is but one allegory filmmakers draw upon in their stories. There are plenty of others out there, and filmmakers should consider how impactful a movie can become when it assumes the label of an allegory. Read through our definition and examples to see how other filmmakers have handled this concept.Up Next: Allegory explained –

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