

1. At the start of the reading, Meno accuses Socrates of always doubting himself and others. Meno makes the claim that Socrates is like a "flat torpedo fish" and that he "torpifies" any who come near him. Socrates gets defensive about this claim, and calls Meno a "rogue". He tells Meno that he believes he made a simile about him so that he could make another about him, almost as if he was egging him on and trying to get him to "torpedo" at him to prove his point.
2. On page 2, Meno and Socrates speak of the "Learners Paradox". Socrates makes mention of the argument put forth by Meno that a man cannot enquire about that which he doesn't know. He states that if a man does in fact know, he need not enquire. Socrates goes on to speak about priests and priestesses and Pindar as well as Persephone and the migration of souls that have learned post ancient crime, come to a place of enlightenment and were then able to "remember" all things. Socrates speaks of learning more as "recollection".
3. Socrates has a conversation with Meno's servant boy about squares and in this he is drawing up and demonstrating the theory of "innate knowledge". Plato's theory on "innate knowledge" states that the moment we are born in this world our mind already contains knowledge and ideas that only need be nurtured through this lifetime. This ties into the "recollection" aspect of knowing that was spoken of in the conversation between Socrates and Meno. Socrates demonstrates this theory in his conversation with Meno's servant by asking the boy questions and bringing to light the state of the boy's knowledge. He points out that the boy didn't actually "know" at first, but was able to "recollect" things he was told. Socrates is proving his point and also goes on to state that it's better to "torpedo" an individual to enable them to see that which they do not know of, then enabling them to enquire and learn.

1. Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge, in my own wording, would be that of retrieving and discovering answers based upon already present concrete facts through a fixed process. The answer can only be obtained and sure of following this fixed process of obtaining the answer, which is fixed upon and built upon concrete facts and truth. A "syllogism", as we read of, is a "drawn up procedure for testing the validity of arguments". A "demonstration", according to Aristotle, is a "scientific syllogism", one whose possession constitutes scientific knowledge.
2. Aristotle makes a point about deduction by itself not leading to truth about the world by speaking of something known as "nous" or intuition. Aristotle states that knowledge develops naturally from sense-perception, since the human mind has the capacity for noticing and remembering general similarities which underlie the flux of sensory experience.
3. According to Aristotle, there is something present in all animals called "sense-perception". Sense perception leads to the acquiring of knowledge by means of the senses. One example of this, which we also read of in the passage, is through the mind. The mind is able to receive, perceive and then put to use that which it has "sucked up" or obtained through this retrieval and perception process. By means of this process, the mind can then create a "logos", or an image of that which it has essentially downloaded. The mind has rationalized that which it was given, which at first didn't have a true understanding of or ability to grasp and break down. I

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Meno/Socrates Discussion Questions

often like to share with others about what studying Greek and Hebrew has done for me, especially in the realm of shopping and better understanding marketing. Companies use different “logos” that paint a picture or understanding in our minds of the products that they are offering. Its quite common for someone to try to explain something to someone that they can’t grasp until they are given an image that then enables them to better understand what it is they are being spoken to about. In light of this alone, we see what Aristotle is speaking of. Aristotle speaks of “memory” which then leads to experience. When someone begins going to the gym, they often need to buy gym clothes. They go to the store, purchase a new Nike gym outfit, and are then off to the gym. This Nike Logo is now tied to that persons new gym life. When this individual goes out into the world and sees the Nike Logo, that person’s mind immediately lights up and begins to think about the gym and exercise. Here we see “memory” at work as well as generalization. Nike has just become generalized in their life because it went from just being some other “brand” to the brand that the individual now purchases to work out in.