NAME

DATE

PERIOD

**Plato’s *Allegory of the Cave* Reading Questions & Paragraph Prompt – AP LITERATURE**

**Read and annotate the Allegory and answer the following questions, using direct quotations whenever possible. Please use complete sentences.**

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. What two things in the cave do these prisoners trapped in the cavern believe are real?
2. How does a prisoner react when he first sees sunlight? Why?
3. Why will the prisoner need time to adjust to the world outside the cave?
4. According to Plato, how would the people in the cave react to an escapee who tried to explain the truth to them, or who came down and broke their chains to set them free?
5. According to the allegory, “bewilderments of the eyes” can occur in two different ways. What are the two ways and what does he mean?
6. In lines 110-111, why does Plato say it is impossible for professors of education to put knowledge in the soul which was not there before?

**ANALYSIS/INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS**

1. According to Plato, what process does the Allegory of the Cave represent?
2. What do the shadows stand for in Plato’s Allegory?
3. According to Plato, what does the sun represent in his allegory?
4. What do you think are the shadows in our society? In your life?
5. Who are the puppeteers in our society? In your life?
6. In society today or in your own life, what sorts of things shackle the mind?

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| **PARAGRAPH PROMPT**  Please write your answer to the following question in a well-organized analytical paragraph, using textual evidence to support your answer. Write your answer on lined paper and staple it to this worksheet.  **Describe the effect(s) of Plato’s use of the imagery of "chains" and a "cave" to describe the state of the unenlightened in the "Allegory of the Cave". (Hint: Being unenlightened is like being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.)** |