

Unit 15 - Classwork 3: Plato's *Laches* Dialogue

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 18–21 in Unit 15.

1. Laches and Nicias disagreed with each other about the correct answer to a question posed by Lysimachus, who asked, “Should teenage boys should be taught how to fight while wearing armor?” Although he received contradictory answers from Laches and Nicias, Lysimachus never managed to get an answer from Socrates, who explained that, in order to answer the question, a more *basic* question must be answered. According to Socrates, what was that more basic question?

2. Two Questions about Nicias -

(i) According to Nicias, should teenage boys should be taught how to fight while wearing armor? Why or why not? Explain.

(ii) According to Nicias, what is courage?.

3. Two Questions about Laches -

(i) According to Laches, should teenage boys should be taught how to fight while wearing armor? Why or why not? Explain.

(ii) According to Laches, what is courage?.

4. How did Socrates disagree with Laches?

5. How did Socrates disagree with Nicias?