

Chapter 16 - Assignment 2: Plato's *Laches* Dialogue

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 10–13 in Chapter 16.

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

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

2. 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?

3. Laches and Nicias each shared what they thought courage is.

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

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

4. On what courage *is*, how did Socrates disagree with *Laches*?

5. On what courage *is*, how did Socrates disagree with *Nicias*?