Chapter 18 - Assignment 1: Plato's *Theages* Dialogue (on Wisdom)

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 4–7 in Chapter 18.

1. In your own words, explain how Demodocus compared children to plants.

2. What advice did Demodocus seek from Socrates?

3. Theages wanted to learn a certain kind wisdom, and he believed that medicine, music, and gymnastics are difference kinds of wisdom, but which kind of wisdom did he want to learn? (Note: Explain the kind of wisdom that he desired).

4. Theages wanted to be a politician.

(i) Why *didn't* Theages want to be a politician like Periander?

(ii) Why *did* Theages want to be a politician like Pericles?

(iii) According to Theages, why couldn't he learn politics by spending time with a good politician?

(iv) According to Socrates, only one Athenian should teach Theages, but *who* was that Athenian (and *why*)? In order to receive credit, you must explain your answer.

(v) According to Socrates, would it ever have been okay for Theages to learn from a foreigner (*i.e.* a non-Athenian)? *Why* or why *not*? Explain in your own words.

5. Why was Socrates so reluctant to teach Theages?