

Welcome to our Reading Group guide for *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaardner. We invite you to consider and discuss the following questions when reading this book:

1. How does Sophie's way of thinking change as she progresses through her course? Did you find your own way of thinking changing and if so how?
2. Alberto explains that it is central to the course that Sophie understands the difference between a sophist and a philosopher. What is the difference and why is it so important?
3. What is the basis of Socrates's philosophy?
4. How would you describe Plato's philosophy? What was the basis of his ideal state? What did Aristotle make of Plato's ideas? How did Aristotle's philosophy differ from Plato's?
5. How did the scientific discoveries of the Renaissance affect philosophy?
6. In what ways do science, religion and philosophy interact? Philosophy and science both require rigorous thought while religion also requires a leap of faith. How compatible are philosophy and religion?
7. What do you make of the chapter 'Berkeley'?
8. What did you think of the book's conclusion?
9. 'The only thing we require to be good philosophers is the faculty of wonder' (page 10). Did *Sophie's World* reawaken a sense of wonder for you? Are you keen to learn more about philosophy?