

Socrates in the Classroom



Bringing Creativity and Thinking Skills into the Educational Process
TA Teachers Conferences, Riga 2012

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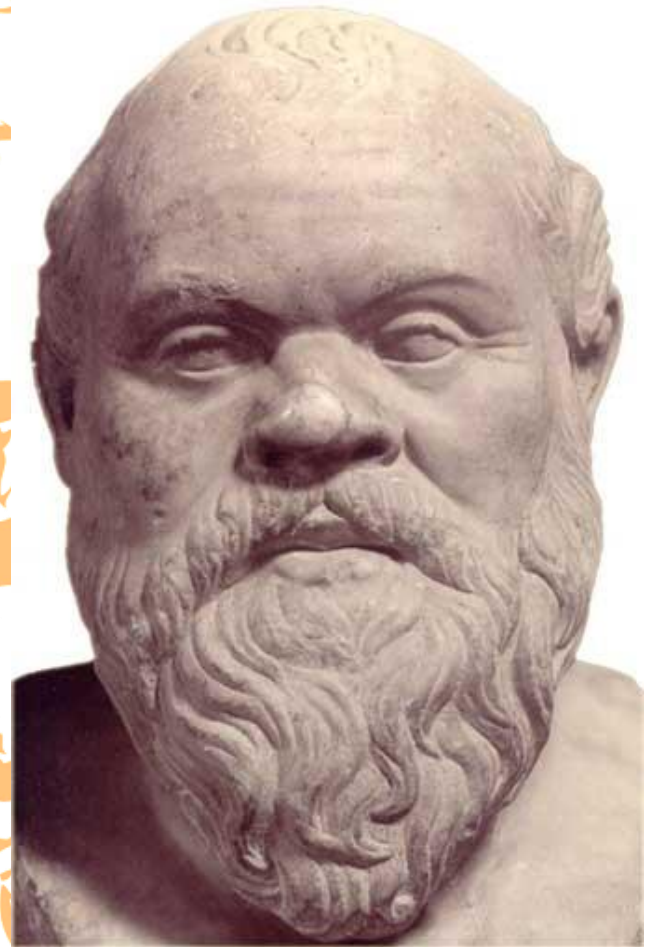
Stockholm University

www.kunskapskallan.com

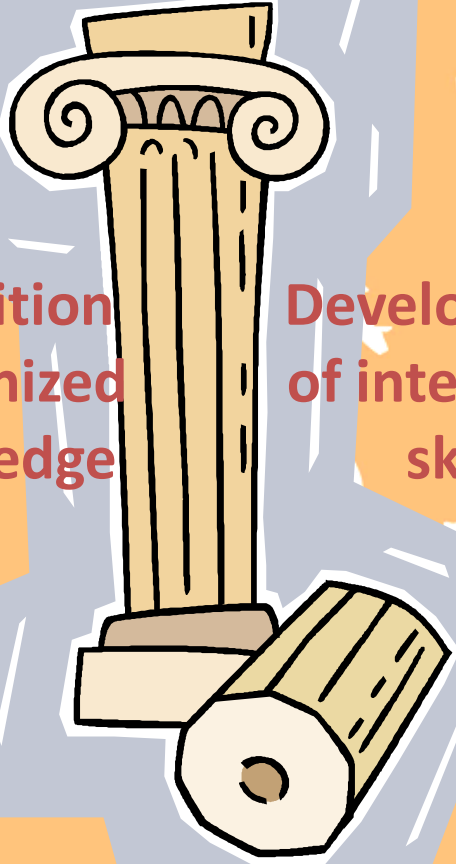
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Socratic seminars

- Antique tradition: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Popular Education/*Bildung*
- Contemporary methods:
 - The Paideia Seminar
 - Great Books' Shared Inquiry
 - Sokratiska samtal
- “Relatives”:
 - P4C, PwC
 - Deliberative dialogue
 - John Dewey's “recitation”



Mortimer J. Adler's cognitive columns




Acquisition
of organized
knowledge

Teacher as
didactic



Development
of intellectual
skills

Teacher as
coach



Enlarged
understanding
of ideas and
values, creating

Teacher as
"the first among
equals" / mid-wife

www.paideia.org

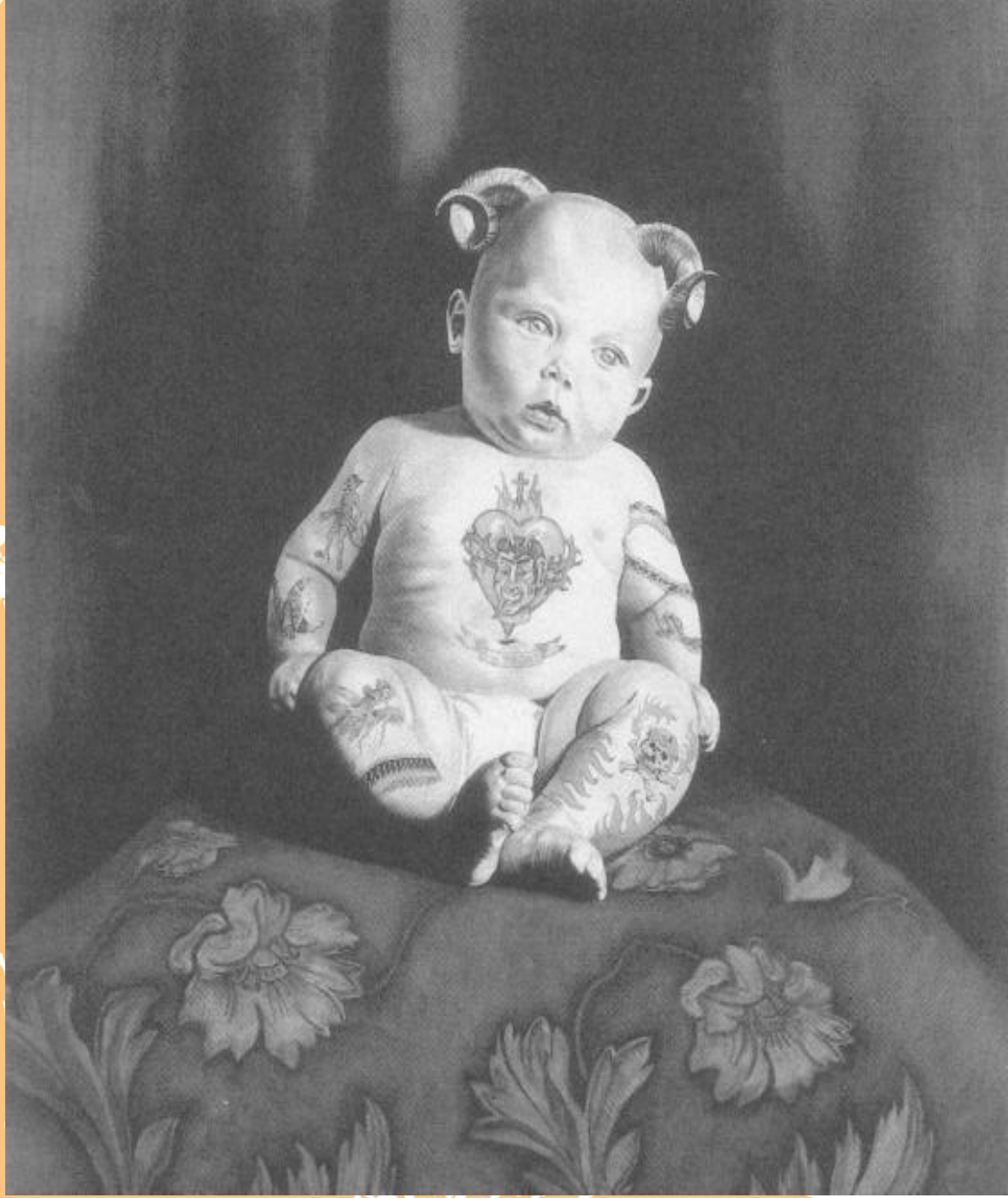
www.greatbooks.org

Socratic Seminar Rules

- Shared inquiry through thoughtful dialogue
- Listen attentively to what others say
- Many alternative answers
- Be prepared to reconsider and maybe change your opinion



Diabolo baby by Mariana Gartner



Suggested Seminar Plan

- Reading/interpretation
- Pre-seminar: personal and group goals set
- **Seminar:**
 - **Opening question,**
 - **“Textual” analysis**
 - **Questions of evaluation**
- Post seminar: personal and group goals evaluated



Research shows positive effects on:



- Critical thinking skills
- Language skills
- Self-esteem and higher awareness of self (character)
- Social climate
- Ability to solve conflicts



PowerPoints and more at:
www.kunskapskallan.com

Film: www.urplay.se

”Jakten på det demokratiska
klassrummet”

Freinetskolan Mimer