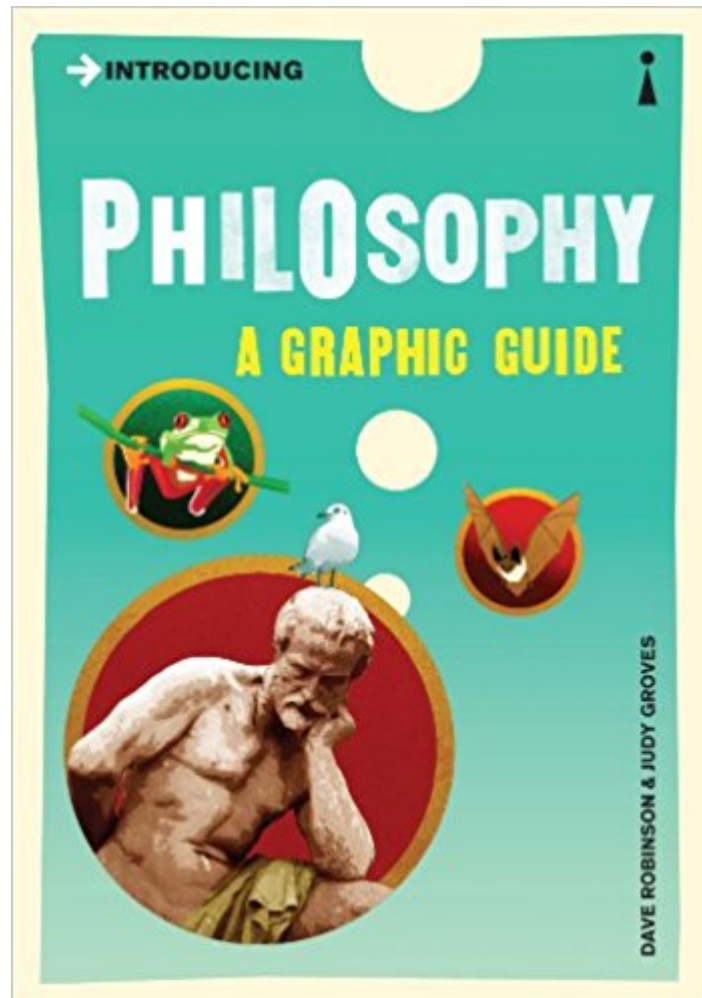




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Introducing Philosophy: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...)



Synopsis

Philosophers have always enjoyed asking awkward and provocative questions, such as: What is the nature of reality? What are human beings really like? What is special about the human mind and consciousness? Are we free to choose who we are and what we do? Can we prove that God exists? Can we be certain about anything at all? What is truth? Does language provide us with a true picture of the world? How should we behave towards each other? Do computers think? "Introducing Philosophy" is a comprehensive graphic guide to the thinking of all the significant philosophers of the Western world from Heraclitus to Derrida. It examines and explains their key arguments and ideas without being obscure or solemn. Lively and accessible, it is the perfect introduction to philosophers and philosophical ideas for anyone coming to the subject for the first time.

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Customer Reviews

I have had a passion for philosophy most of my life. I have taken numerous college level courses and read numerous books on philosophy over years. I had read several of these

Introducing guide series in the past and found them to be very interesting and informative. I recently purchased this volume (Introducing Philosophy: A graphic guide by Dave Robinson and Judy Groves) and found it to be an excellent basic guide to most of the main philosophers and their theories. I love the way this graphic guide is organized beginning with a brief explanation of the branches of philosophy such as Epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and political philosophy. The book goes on to explain that the Greeks invented philosophy but no one really knows why. All the main philosophers and their contribution to thinking, logic and mathematics are covered in this book. Socrates, who taught to question everything, Plato, whose idea of "Philosopher Kings" which in reality was the basis for the development later in history of socialism and communism, Aristotle, whose theories on reason and logic paved the way for science, Heraclitus, who came up with the theory that the only thing permanent is change and why you cannot step in the same river twice. This 176 page volume is surprisingly detailed and is a fantastic basic introduction to the basic principles of philosophy. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Tactical Principles of the most combative systems.)

Maybe a tad wordy for a comic-style book (or perhaps would simply benefit from larger artwork/pages), this was nevertheless a pretty interesting general overview of the history of philosophical thought that didn't require me to slog through dozens of text books. My overall retention isn't great when covering a ton of philosophers for an average of a paragraph or two each, but I did get a feel for where we've come from. Actually, if I learned anything it's that most of philosophy's history has been one person disproving (or trying to disprove) the last all the way up to the 19th century or so, when thinkers began formulating some of the first concepts that still could be considered relevant today. So maybe I can thank this book for keeping me from reading countless books on philosophies that I wouldn't consider applicable to modern life (not that there's anything wrong with that, but I have no interest in being a student of philosophy, I'm more interested in real-world applicable concepts).

I was hoping for a philosophy primer for my precocious ten year old niece. This is not it.....it may be illustrated, but it would be over her head. Maybe in a few years. Reading it myself I was not pleased with the illustrations, and found the summations on each page incomprehensible. Still, halfway through, it seemed to become more clear or maybe got into philosophies more familiar or palatable to me. I started installing bookmarks to indicate philosophies to delve into more later, and it became nearly every page. SO I think this little pocket guide accomplished a worthwhile purpose.

Great summary

I agree with the positive comments by other reviewers. The book is unclear in a few places, but a visit to Wikipedia can fill in the gaps. I also agree that Gaarder's novel "Sophie's World" provides a much better explanation and discussion, especially for newcomers to philosophy. But this book covers more ideas and ties more things together. Both books show the big picture of ideas appearing and evolving over time, in religion, science, art, government, and culture. Reading both, and perhaps a few of Paul Strathern's "90 Minutes" series, should provide almost any adult reader with a good overview of Western philosophy (great background for other pursuits), and a satisfying sense of participation in the great voyage of humanity.

Interesting

Cool, but hard to understand quickly

...and they have a logic one as well! need i say more? even for the non-philosophically minded, a great read and big help. highly recommend.

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