

## Study Questions for Book III of the *Republic*

Why does Socrates insist that Homer and the poets be banned from the city (387b)?

In your estimation, prior to Socrates' explanation of his epistemology in Book V, what is the problem with knowledge that is an "imitation?"

What is the relationship between imitation and truth? Is "imitation" always a bad quality? (395 b-e)

What is the place of music in the Polity of Socrates' imagination? What is the difference between music and poetry?

How is the ruler of a city chosen? What personal sacrifices must a person make to serve as ruler?

What two points is Socrates trying to make by telling the Phoenician myth at the end of Book III?

What is the significance of Plato's decision to have Socrates elaborate his position by recounting a mythological story?