

Use the following passage to answer the next 8 questions.

Plato's Dream
by Voltaire

- (1) In ancient times, dreams were much revered, and Plato was one of the greatest dreamers. His dream *The Republic* is deservedly famous, but the following little-known tale is perhaps his most amazing dream—or nightmare:
- (2) The great Demiurgos¹, the eternal geometer, having scattered throughout the immensity of space innumerable worlds, decided to test the knowledge of those lesser superbeings who were also his creations, and who had witnessed his works. He gave them each a small portion of matter to arrange, just as our own art teachers give their students a statue to carve, or a picture to paint, if we may compare small things to great.
- (3) Demogorgon² received the lump of mud we call Earth, and having formed it as it now appears, thought he had created a masterpiece. He imagined he had silenced Envy herself, and expected to receive the highest praise, even from his brethren. How great was his surprise, when, at the presentation of his work, they hissed in disapproval!
- (4) One among them, more sarcastic than the rest, spoke:

"Truly you have performed mighty feats! You have divided your world into two parts; and, to prevent them from communicating with each other, placed a vast collection of waters between the two hemispheres. The inhabitants must perish with cold under both your poles, and be scorched to death under the equator. You have, in your great prudence, formed immense deserts of sand, so all who travel over them may die with hunger and thirst. I have no fault to find with your cows, sheep, cocks, and hens; but can never be reconciled to your serpents and spiders. Your onions and artichokes are very good things, but I cannot conceive what induced you to scatter such a heap of poisonous plants over the face of the planet, unless it was to poison its inhabitants. Moreover, if I am not mistaken, you have created about 30 different kinds of monkeys, a still greater number of dogs, yet only four or five races of humans. It is true, indeed, you have bestowed on the latter of these animals a faculty you call Reason, but it is so poorly executed that you might better call it Folly. Besides, you do not seem to have shown any very great regard for this two-legged creature, seeing you have left him with so few means of defense; subjected him to so many disorders, and provided him with so few remedies; and formed him with such a multitude of passions, and so little wisdom and prudence to resist them. You certainly were not willing that there should remain any great number of these animals on Earth at once; for, over the course of a given year, smallpox will regularly carry off a tenth of the species, and sister maladies will taint the springs of life in the remainder; and then, as if this was not enough, you have so disposed things that half of those who survive are occupied in lawsuits, or

10.3e

6. What universal theme is present in "Plato's Dream"?

- A survival of the fittest
- B loss of innocence
- C good overcoming evil
- D disillusionment with life

10.3c

7. What is the tone of paragraph 5?

- A humorous
- B optimistic
- C sarcastic
- D regretful

10.3c

8. In paragraph 13, Demiurgos scowls because he —

- A is disappointed with his work in the universe.
- B knows the whole story is just a dream.
- C feels that Demogorgon and his peers are imperfect creatures.
- D is proud of the work done by Demogorgon.