Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Plato and *The Allegory of the Cave*: Annotation and Reading Guide

**Video** (biography.com) As you watch the video, answer the following questions.

1. What is the approximate lifespan of Plato? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe Plato’s relationship with Socrates. In what ways did Socrates influence Plato?
3. What was the Academus?
4. What is the style of writing of most of Plato’s work?
5. Summarize the Theory of Forms:

***The Allegory of the Cave*** As you read and respond to the prompts here, develop a system of annotation that will help you return meaningfully to the text. Don’t simply underline or highlight lines of text; write words and symbols in the margins to help you reread the text.

1. What is an **allegory**? (Sure, look it up!)
2. What are some biographical details about Plato you can add to what you wrote above? Annotate the text to show these details.
3. At the end of this reading guide, **draw a picture of the cave**, its inhabitants, and the activity there as described on page 2.
4. Describe in your own words the situation of the “beings” as we first meet them on page 2. This is a description of your drawing. Annotate the text to help you easily find the visual account provided.
5. Summarize page 3. Specifically, what happens when the “prisoners” look at “realities” instead of “shadows”? Annotate the text accordingly.
6. On page 4, the freed prisoner sees the sun. What is the result of this and what might the sun represent? Annotate.
7. What does the phrase “Better to be the poor servant of a poor master…” mean?
8. What do the prisoners who remained in the cave think when the first returns to the cave? Still annotating?
9. How does Socrates explain the allegory? Annotate page 5.
10. What is learning, and what is it not, according to Socrates? Annotate page 6.
11. Who make the best governors, or leaders of the State? Why? Annotate pages 7-9 and provide text evidence here.
12. Glaucon is Plato’s brother and a follower-student of Socrates. What does his role seem to be in the dialogue? Annotate the text in key moments to show this relationship.
13. What is Plato saying about the human condition and how humans perceive the world?

As accurately as you can, DRAW THE CAVE HERE (see #3 above).