

## Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/wasps-and-gadflies-the-role-of-insect-similes-in-homer-aristophanes-and-plato/>

This video reflects on the author's scholarly journey involving the works of Plato, Aristotle, and Homer, particularly focusing on Plato's "Apology of Socrates." The author discusses Socrates' characterization as a "gadfly," which is an unconventional choice for defending oneself against charges of corrupting Athenian youth, given the negative connotations associated with the insect. Despite this, the gadfly metaphor emphasizes the role of Socrates in prompting critical thought among his fellow citizens.

The author explores how Homer and Aristophanes also utilize insect imagery, illustrating a broader literary tradition where lowly creatures are sometimes used to elevate heroic themes. This video delves into how Homer compares the tenacity of a fly to the courage of a warrior, suggesting that even insignificant beings can play pivotal roles in significant narratives.

Ultimately, the author argues that philosophical and artistic figures challenge complacency, provoking thought and action for the greater good. The notion that "one should not judge by appearances" is highlighted, suggesting that there is deeper value found in individuals like Socrates, who, despite their unappealing exterior, contribute to the intellectual rigor of society. The author aims to show parallels between the works of Homer and Plato, underscoring the enduring relevance of their ideas in contemporary discourse.