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Period 8

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HW #71

Strepsiades’ problem with his son is his stupidity, lack of work ethic, and his expensive horses. All Pheidippides does is laze around all day, race horses, and makes his father lose more money. Strepsiade especially has a problem with debt. He claims he lost two or three lawsuits on Pheidippides' account and he also has to pay for upkeep costs for the horses. Strepsiades' problem with his wife is that she was a high maintenance lady since she was a city girl and hailed from the wealthy Megakles family. She was another drain on whatever wealth Pheidippides has left.   
 The purpose of the dramatic monologue in the beginning of the chapter is to give the audience some laughs as well as establishing some information about Strepsiades. The comedy aspect is present in Strepsiades constant complaints about people still being asleep as well as him trying to fart in his own son's bed. Once Strepsiades starts examining his account book, he yells at his still sleeping son and makes more comedic remarks. For example, the author writes, "TO PASIAS: THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED ... Of course. I remember. That gelding I bought from him. Idiot! Better I should have gelded myself.," (Aristophanes 23). Not only has his son not woken up yet, but he also implies that he wishes that he never had his son since he would rather geld himself. By castrating himself, he implies that he would never have had such a bad son.