Jonathan Quang  
Period 8  
HW #71

Aristophanes uses the mystery religion motif in reference to the education provided by the Thinkery because its teachings can be considered blasphemous to Greek religion and culture. Socrates was a firm supporter of the gods in real life, but in the comedy he tells Strepsiades that the gods do not really exist. Socrates gives a somewhat scientifically correct explanation for what clouds, rain, and lightning are. Believing in Socrates' teaching is dangerous. The students of the Thinkery are not in perfect health either. This only serves to increase the audience's interest in the Thinkery due to it being somewhat dangerous and later satirizes it by pointing out the silly antics of some of the students such as bending down with their butts pointed at the sky.  
 The physical condition of the students at the Thinkery are not completely healthy. They will have to appear pale and somewhat thin since the requirements detailed by the Chorus on page 54 said that to be a member of the Thinkery involve missing meals and not getting enough exercise. They appear to study astronomy and geology since the students in the beginning were bending down studying rock strata and the concept of the stars also exists. Students also study weather, or at least clouds since Socrates has a somewhat scientifically accurate explanation for clouds and they rain and lightning that comes from them. The students also study geometry since Strepsiades asks the Student what the surveying instruments were for. They also study biology to some degree since there was an explanation about gnat flatulence.