**Socratic Seminar III**

When and why is something considered to be alive?

**This packet includes the following texts:**

Parable: *The Blind Men and the Elephant*

Article: *What is Life?*

Chart: Levels of Organization

Article: *Would We Know Alien Life if we Saw It?*

Article: *Are Viruses Alive?*

**Questions to ponder as you read and annotate:**

What does it mean for something to be alive?

How can non-living things (like molecules) come together to create life?

How has our understanding of life changed over time? Why has it changed?

Is death permanent?

Why might we consider viruses to be alive?

Why might we *not* consider viruses to be alive?

What other examples, like viruses, make us question what it means to be alive?