

**Xenophon's *Symposium***

Xenophon's *Symposium*, like Plato's, is a literary composition from the early 4th century imagining a symposium in the late 5th century with Socrates in attendance as well as other aristocratic guests. The dramatic date for this symposium is 422BC, the host is Kallias, and it is held in honour of Autolycus. Xenophon, like Plato, was a friend and student of Socrates.

Activity – read Xenophon's *Symposium* (could focus just on chapter 8)

There is a Penguin Classics edition translated by Tredennick, and it is available on Perseus and in the LOEB series.

Questions for discussion

What are the similarities and differences in the description of

- The *Symposium*
- The character of Socrates
- The matters discussed
- The views of Eros
- The literary form