

Honors English 12 - *Candide* Summer Reading Project

Part I: Read the novel *Candide* by Voltaire. As you read, be sure to annotate the text, paying specific attention to discussions of philosophy and Voltaire's social commentary regarding key issues in society — see list below! Be aware of passages in which irony or humor is employed in conveying these perspectives. Be ready to identify what Voltaire's central message or criticism might be for each topic and to explain what is actually funny or ironic about the text's portrayal. Have evidence from the text to support.

- Religious Intolerance/Hypocrisy
- War and violence
- Slavery
- Colonialism
- Gender Issues
- Idealization
- Greed
- Poverty and Class Distinction
- Natural Disasters
- Superstition
- Social Inequalities
- Economic Injustice
- Prejudice/Racism
- Nationalistic chauvinism, patriotism
- Human Cruelty

Part II: *Candide* is a work of satire, meaning that it employs humor, irony, and exaggeration to criticize or address societal issues and human vices. Find 2 other examples of satire found in media, cartoons, books, etc. Explain clearly and specifically how each is successfully satirical and what the ultimate message is in 4-6 sentences each.

Part III: Choose a current events issue (or an example of “bad news”) from this summer (May-August) that interests you. Include a link to or copy of a real-life news article/video for the current events issue of your choice. Take on the role and voice of Professor Pangloss from *Candide*, and write a 500 word (minimum) satirical explanation of how this issue is just another part of “the best of all possible worlds.” Remember that this is meant to be a satirical response, so your writing should employ humor, irony, and exaggeration to criticize or address the societal issue and/or human vice.

Other Reminders:

Be ready to submit Parts I-III on the first day of school in digital form. Pictures of annotations can be substituted if using a hard copy. Additionally, within the first two weeks of school, be prepared for an additional reading and/or writing assessment of your comprehension of the novel.

If you have any questions, please contact gbrillante@stjohnschs.org