

Honor 2103
Voltaire's *Candide* – Writing Questions

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Chapters 1-18

1. Identify and briefly describe the main characters: Candide, Cunégonde, Pangloss, and the old woman (and later Martin).
2. Why is Candide kicked out of the Baron's castle? How does Candide meet Dr. Pangloss?
3. Describe the death of the Anabaptist. What significance is this character for Candide?
4. Describe the Lisbon disaster and the effect it has on the main characters. Commentators claim that the Lisbon earthquake is the end of optimism. Comment on this idea.
5. What is the old woman's story and what effect does it have on Candide or others?
6. What is El Dorado and how does Candide react to finding it. What significance does El Dorado have for the story, thusfar?

Thursday, Feb. 19: Chapters 19-30

1. Who is Martin and how did he and Candide meet? What are they most concerned with in their discussions (Chapters 19-21).
2. Briefly describe what happened in France.
3. Briefly describe what happened in Venice.
4. How did the main characters find each other in Constantinople and in what condition are they in?
5. How does the story end? What is the significance of Candide's last line: "We must work our land" (also translated as "We must tend our gardens")?