

Voltaire, *Candide*

**Test: second week of school**

Pre-reading study:

- Biography, Voltaire
  - <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Voltaire>
  - There's also biographical information, depending on the version of the novella you've purchased
  - This information should make its way onto your Major Works Data Sheet

Annotating the text:

- Annotate the descriptions of characters, individually and collectively. Keep an ongoing dialogue with the text as major characters develop. We will focus primarily on Voltaire's satirical exploration of humanity. Recognize his style and structure of ideas.
- Highlight words which are unfamiliar even if they aren't entirely unfamiliar. You must define them either in the text or in your composition notebook. As an academic student of literature, you cannot simply "skip over" words you don't know. They could make or break your understanding of the text.
- Keep track of the plot points in each chapter. Include a one-sentence summary at the end of each chapter. You could imagine that the collection of these statements would well summarize (and possibly analyze) the novella.
- Identify passages of quotes which are clearly intended to communicate a broad message or thematic significance.
- Post-it notes will be used for examples of clear characterization and plot development. Develop multiple interpretations. Extend your learning and take chances on developing perspectives and insights even if you believe they are "risky." Post-its should also mark significant, meaningful thematic elements.
- Use post-its to mark pages with **repetitions** and **motifs** and potential or identified symbols in addition to rhetorical strategies and significant passages. Consider the figurative language that supports and creates those significant passages or ideas.
- Ask questions. Write questions which come with a reasonable guarantee of an answer "down river," but use post-its when you develop questions whose answers will lead to major thematic explanations or questions worthy of asking a small group or the entire class or questions which would lead to deep discussion.

In your **composition** book open a series of pages which act first as a receptacle for three main items:

1. Summarize each major designated section (ch. 1-10; ch. 11-20; ch. 21-30).
2. Look back at the post-its in your text. They should mark the pages of the chapter where you have identified points for critical analysis. While a minimum should never exist, you should choose three to five post-its for each section. Once you've identified these points, expound. Ask and attempt to answer deep questions about Voltaire's purpose and his intent. Your analysis should challenge your analysis of characters, broaden your understanding of symbols, illustrate the effects of Voltaire's style, sew the settings and places to thematic elements, map your insights even if the roads don't have ends.