

Name _____

Candide by Voltaire

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. In "Candide," Voltaire uses Pangloss's philosophy of optimism to satirize the idea of a perfectly ordered world. Despite the overwhelming evidence of suffering and injustice in the story, Pangloss clings to his optimistic beliefs, highlighting the irrationality of such a worldview. Voltaire ultimately underscores the importance of facing reality and addressing the world's problems rather than relying on blind optimism.
2. Voltaire portrays religious institutions and figures in "Candide" as hypocritical and corrupt. Characters like the Grand Inquisitor engage in heinous acts while professing religious piety, exposing the hypocrisy within the Church. Voltaire's critique extends to the broader issue of religious institutions wielding power for personal gain.
3. Candide's unwavering optimism and resilience are central to his character. Despite facing numerous hardships and witnessing the world's injustices, he maintains his belief that things will ultimately turn out for the best. This resilience underscores Voltaire's commentary on the human capacity to endure and find meaning in an imperfect world.
4. "Candide" remains relevant in addressing societal issues and human nature because it critiques timeless themes such as hypocrisy, blind optimism, and the corrupting influence of power. The novella's satirical approach allows readers to reflect on the flaws of society and the human condition, making it a work that continues to provoke thought and discussion in contemporary contexts.

