

# Candide

Voltaire

**How does Voltaire make Pangloss's reasoning sound orderly and absurd at the same time?**

**TOTAL TIME**

**PASSAGE**

|            |                                            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 30 minutes | Pangloss proves everything is for the best |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|

**FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT**

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

|                    |                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SECTION / LOCATION | Chapter I                                                                                                                        |
| START              | Pangloss was professor of metaphysico-theologico-cosmolo-nigology.                                                               |
| END                | the fourth that of hearing Master Pangloss, the greatest philosopher of the whole province, and consequently of the whole world. |
| PASSAGE ID         | sec-can-01                                                                                                                       |

**THE MOVE**

Test logical form against absurd examples

**WHY THIS PASSAGE**

Pangloss’s reasoning has the shape of logic—causes lead to purposes and purposes lead to conclusions—but the examples are absurd because they reverse ordinary explanation. Voltaire makes bad reasoning sound orderly enough to expose how form can imitate logic without earning it.

**MARK**

Number the steps in one of Pangloss’s cause-and-purpose chains. Underline the words that make the sequence sound logical. Circle the point where the conclusion depends on an absurd assumption.

## NOTICE

- What features make Pangloss's reasoning sound systematic?
- Which example most clearly exposes the difference between logical form and sensible evidence?
- Why is Candide's acceptance important to the satire?

## THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Voltaire make Pangloss's reasoning sound orderly and absurd at the same time? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

## WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Voltaire make Pangloss's reasoning sound orderly and absurd at the same time? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

## CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STRONG ANSWER</b> | Pangloss's reasoning sounds orderly because it uses cause-and-effect form, but the examples are absurd because he treats purposes as if they caused physical features. Voltaire lets logical structure disguise ridiculous assumptions. |
| <b>EVIDENCE</b>      | Trace one of Pangloss's reasoning chains and identify the exact assumption that makes the conclusion absurd.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>WATCH FOR</b>     | Do not say the reasoning is illogical without showing where the logic-like form separates from sensible evidence.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>SOLO</b>          | Read the exact passage independently.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SUPPORTED</b>     | Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>LISTENING</b>     | Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.                                                                                                                                           |

## STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

# Candide

Voltaire

### How does Voltaire make Pangloss's reasoning sound orderly and absurd at the same time?

|              |                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| START ANCHOR | Pangloss was professor of metaphysico-theologico-cosmolo-nigology.                                                               |
| END ANCHOR   | the fourth that of hearing Master Pangloss, the greatest philosopher of the whole province, and consequently of the whole world. |

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

#### OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Number the steps in one of Pangloss's cause-and-purpose chains. Underline the words that make the sequence sound logical. Circle the point where the conclusion depends on an absurd assumption.
2. NOTICE - What features make Pangloss's reasoning sound systematic? Which example most clearly exposes the difference between logical form and sensible evidence? Why is Candide's acceptance important to the satire?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Voltaire make Pangloss's reasoning sound orderly and absurd at the same time?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.