

Candide is a poor, simple young man who lives in the faraway land of Westphalia. He lives what seems to be a perfect life. His tutor, Pangloss, has taught him that since this is the only possible world, it must be the best possible world, so everything must happen for the best. Candide is in love with Cunegonde. Her father, the baron, won't let her marry Candide because he is poor, and he plans to drive Candide out of his kingdom. Before he can accomplish this, a terrible war breaks out, and Candide flees. He travels all over the world... Spain, Portugal, South America... and encounters famine, war, earthquakes, and other terrible calamities. But Candide always views these events as happening for the best. Finally, he comes home to Westphalia to find that the village has been burned during the war and the baron and his family have all been killed. All that is left of his old life is Cunegonde. In the end, he finds the simple joy of coming home, marrying Cunegonde and starting a home and family.