 **Voltaire**  
French Author/Philosopher  
France, 1759

Voltaire was an author in France just before the French Revolution. A popular, clever, and witty guy, he spent his life criticizing the French government – the King, the nobility, and the Catholic Church!

**Candide:**  
In 1759, Voltaire wrote his masterpiece, *Candide*. In this book, a young man wanders through France. Everywhere he goes, people tell him, "France is the best of all possible worlds." Using biting satire, Voltaire shows how untrue that was – After all, France was an absolute monarchy!

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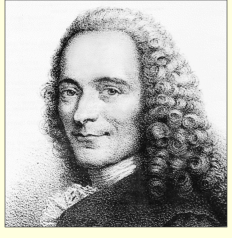
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Voltaire paid a price for his "freedom of speech." Whenever he made Frenchmen laugh, the government persecuted him. Because he made fun of the nobility, Voltaire spent a year in the Bastille Prison in Paris. Because he made fun of the King, Voltaire spent most of his life in exile.



Because he made fun of the Catholic Church, Voltaire was not buried in a church cemetery.

**PREDICT:**

Voltaire obviously wanted freedom of speech for himself. But did he want free speech for others?

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**Yes!**

Voltaire wanted civil liberties for all. He is famous for saying:

"I do not agree with a word you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

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