

Book One: Kandide and the Secret of the Mists

By Diana S. Zimmerman

www.kandide.com

Scholastic Lesson Plans

(To be used with Book One of the Kandide Trilogy)

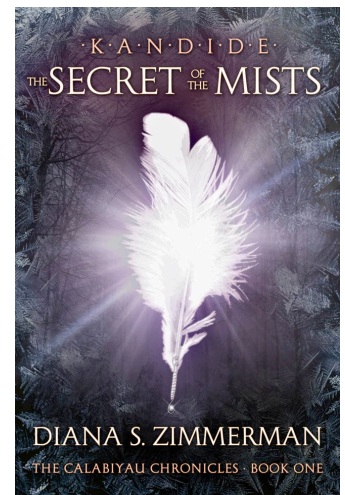


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“Zimmerman’s character variety provides moral conflict amid a fantasy component, where life-changing epiphanies are discovered along with fanciful adventures in pomegranate meadows, palaces, dark woods, and underwater caverns. You’ll be absorbed into “Kandide and the Secret of the Mists” as if you were making the journey yourself. Aided by Zimmerman’s gentle, descriptive prose, Kandide perches on the edge of poetry that is at the crossroads of invention and imagination.” Jacqueline Monahan—Las Vegas Around the Clock

HOW KANDIDE HELPS KIDS LEARN:

Book One of the Kandide Trilogy, *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists*, is an award-winning adventure into **reading, English, art, creative writing, acceptance, and imagination**, and as well as a platform to help teachers in the **prevention of bullying**. It is available through all fine books stores and **Scholastic Book Fairs/Book Clubs**. (Feather cover)

In addition to being a “rollicking good read,” it contains a strong **pro-social acceptance** and **anti-bullying messaging**.

- Kandide is used by teachers and librarians to help kids master reading, writing, and behavior skills, as well as gain self-confidence.
- The variety of characters in the book appeal to both boys and girls, age eight and up.
- Kandide is endorsed by **S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere)**, the nationwide organization for the prevention of school violence.
- These lesson plans are designed for use in **grades three and above**.
- You may make as many copies of this lesson plan as you like for teaching purposes.
- Kandide is worth **9 AR points**.

Kandide’s author, Diana S. Zimmerman, is available to **visit your school or classroom** with no speaking fee. Contact: kandide@kandide.com or 310.645.5604

WHY KANDIDE HELPS KIDS:

Jeff Smith, a 5th grade teacher at Sable Point Elementary School in Longwood, Florida, adopted *Kandide* even before it was published, and has used every year since.

- Among other things, he uses *Kandide* to teach his students how to **create storyboards, illustrations, understand story structure, and do plot analysis.**
- Neither the story nor the words talk down to kids, but because *Kandide* is an intriguing adventure, they are anxious to **read, learn, and explore** the use of **vocabulary and imagination.**

Here's what Jeff Smith had to say:

"Mixing **adventure and fantasy with life lessons** is making *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists* a favorite in my class for two years in a row. We were lucky to read it in pre-publication. Now, this year's students are REALLY enjoying *Kandide*. Both the boys and the girls are fascinated by the message, characters, and plot."—Jeff Smith, teacher, Sable Point Elementary School, Florida

Here are a couple more quotes from students:

"I am a big fan of science fiction and *Kandide* is definitely one of my favorites. The awesome writing and story could get anyone of any age interested in this book. The message **to treat everybody equally was important and something we all need to know.** I can't wait to read the next part of the story in the next book when it gets released!"—Thomas Pinel, Student, Age 11

"Wow. That book was the best book I've read in a while! It caught my attention from the very beginning and kept it throughout the book. **I couldn't put it down.** Great book. I cannot wait to read the second book. And I can't wait for Jake and *Kandide* to get married."—Anada Keith, Student

And a Mom:

"My daughter, Rachel has just **raved about your book.** I'm sure it will be a best seller for you! Now that I have my own copy, I can't wait to start reading it!!" Ronda Babichm, Mom of student at Sable Point Elementary School

SYNOPSIS

Kandide and the Secret of the Mists

What if everything you love is suddenly taken away,
And everything you fear becomes your only hope?

Welcome to Calabiyau. But beware; this is not the faery land of childhood tales. Still a teen in human years, Kandide is vain, spoiled, and the personification of perfection. She is also heir to the throne and keeper of the Gift.

When a tragic accident leaves her less than perfect, her own mother banishes her to a treacherous world of strange beasts, and even stranger Fée. Not only must Kandide battle to survive, but her own repulsion for those she is now like. This, however, is just the beginning of her troubles.

Within Calabiyau, there is a presence far more deadly. Joined by her prankster brother, Teren, and her tomboy sister, Tara, Kandide must challenge the darkest of creatures to face an evil worse than any she could have imagined if she is to protect the secret of the Mists.

Author: Diana S. Zimmerman

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www.kandide.com

“Kandide and the Secret of the Mists, reflects both our world as it is now, and a magical world taking action through the fight against darkness as we are transported into an enchanting adventure. My father, Michael Landon, strove to teach us the power of loving one another, as we are— imperfections and all. **Kandide is a brilliant adventure for truth seekers of all ages.**”—Cheryl Landon, Street Corner Dreams Foundation, Author, Teacher, Mother.

Kandide and the Secret of the Mists

Lesson Plan #1

Improving Reading Skills

Objective: To improve the reading and comprehension abilities of students.

Overview: Harry Potter proved that kids will read when they are excited about a topic. Kandide is proving that kids will not only read, but challenges them to improve their reading and comprehension skills. The book is written in such a way that it not only stimulates interest, but also encourages kids to ask questions about words and discuss its story concepts.

Activities: Each week students read one or more chapters in class. Since the chapters are short, there are natural stopping points for discussion.

Students are asked to write down words that they do not understand, along with the point of each chapter and how it advances the action of the story.

The entire class then discusses each of these.

Questions to Ask:

1. What are other meanings of the words?
2. What was the message in the chapter?
3. How does the chapter advance the plot and overall storyline?
4. What did you learn about the characters?
5. How do they change?

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Lesson Plan #2

Creative Writing Skills

Objective: To help students develop their imagination and creative writing skills.

Overview: Kandide is a story that rings true for every tween and teen. She lives in a world where perfection is prized and being different is shunned—not unlike many middle and high schools in today’s world. The story was developed from real-life experiences and adapted to a land of fantasy and enchantment. Helping kids to use their imagination to adapt their own real life experiences starts them on the path to creative writing.

Activities: After your students have read five or six chapters in class, they discuss real-world problems that parallel Kandide, her parents, and her sibling’s lives.

Students are asked to write down examples from their own lives that relate to the occurrences in the book. They are next asked to create an outline of a short story utilizing their own examples. And finally, to write a story that is set in a different place or time from now, and that uses different types of characters. These can be fantasy beings as in Kandide, animals, or other people.

Each of the stories are read and discussed by the entire class.

Questions to Ask:

1. What real-life situation have you experienced that is similar to Kandide, her parents, her sister, or her brother?
2. How did you feel when it happened?
3. What led up to causing it to happen?
4. How was it resolved?
5. As a result, how were you changed?

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Lesson Plan #3

Imagination and Artistic Skills

Objective: To help students develop imaginative and artistic skills.

Overview: Kandide contains nine full-color renderings by Australian artist Maxine Gadd. Discussing this artwork and how it captures the essence of the story is an important factor in the creation of good illustrations. But there are many other aspects about the book that can also be illustrated by your students.

Activities: After your students have read several chapters in class, they are to storyboard the most important elements of each section. In doing so, they are to use their imagination to describe and illustrate various characters and places, as well as the emotions of the characters.

The entire class then discusses the storyboards.

Questions to Ask:

1. How does Maxine Gadd's art capture the flavor of Diana Zimmerman's writing?
2. Do you feel like you know the characters from the drawings?
3. What do you think the characters are thinking?
4. How do you think each character feels at specific times in the book?
5. What does each land look like?

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Lesson Plan #4

Acceptance and Bullying

Objective: To help students understand and prevent bullying.

Overview: Kandide starts out as a vain, intolerant, and egotistical. When the very thing she disdains the most happens to her, she is sent away to fend for herself. The only support system she has is by the very people she shunned. Her journey of acceptance—of both herself and others around her—is a crucial lesson for all school kids.

Activities: After your students have read several chapters in class, they are asked to write down three things about Kandide’s behavior. Why they think she is so vain and intolerant, as well as how she makes other feel. Then write down three things about Kandide’s behavior after her accident? How does she feel? What does she do to compensate for not liking herself? Does she not like the others, or is she scared of them?

The entire class then discusses the answers.

Questions to Ask:

1. How did Kandide become so vain and intolerant?
2. Do you think she makes other people feel good when she is so mean?
3. Why do you think she is that way? Does it make her feel more important?
4. Have you eve been made to feel unimportant or been bullied?
5. How do you feel when others do this to you?
6. What can you do to stop it from happening?
7. Who should you tell about it when you see it happening?

KANDIDE TAKES HONORS

Diana S. Zimmerman's *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists* named Finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for three categories: Children's/Juvenile Fiction, Young Adult Fiction, and Science Fiction/Fantasy categories.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

"Kandide gives its readers one captivating, enthralling adventure after another."—S. Earl Statler, Critic Correspondent, The Los Angeles Newspaper Group

"Harry Potter has now whistled on down the tracks into history, nestled inside the Hogwarts Express. Would a series ever knock me off my feet again? The Calabiyau Chronicles Book One, *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists*, arrived on my desk and did just that. Diana S. Zimmerman does not stop at portraying fully fleshed lead characters. She knows her way around a powerful redemptive tale. Set in the magical land of the faery, *Kandide* is a must read fantasy adventure for all who treasure books and the finer heroic impulses of human nature."—Vin Smith, The Midnight Book Worm—Air America First Radio

"Ms. Zimmerman presented to our 6th through 8th graders and completely captivated them using her skills as a magician and storyteller. She took the students from their world into that of her characters using a multi-media presentation. Ms. Zimmerman had their rapt attention from the first slip of the coin."— Leila Kipp, Librarian, Hamilton International Middle School, Seattle, Washington

"Wow! I just loved it! It was very descriptive, very catching and I couldn't put it down! From the first prank pulled by Teren to Lady Aron taking little Alin away in a fiery blaze, it kept me hooked! I can't wait for the second, or the third, or the fourth! I especially liked the conversations in it, half of the time, it was implying so much more than what was just said, and the morals in it are completely and utterly true!" BrieAnna West – Glen Carbon Library

"Diana Zimmerman wove an enchanting tale that especially younger audiences will enjoy! The message that inner beauty is what truly matters rings true in this novel that will have young readers wanting to read more of *Kandide's* adventures! Beautiful artwork & cover as well."—Dominique, The Book Vault: <http://the-book-vault.blogspot.com/>

"Kandide is pure magic!"—Lance Burton, internationally acclaimed magician

KANDIDE ENDORSED BY S.A.V.E

The national Organization, S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) has endorsed *Kandide and The Secret of the Mists*. This wonderful organization has over 700 chapters nationwide. <http://www.nationalsave.org>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

DIANA S. ZIMMERMAN

Vanishing avocados, mega-million dollar conferences, haute couture jewels, and mysterious beings are all part of Diana S. Zimmerman's remarkable life and career.

Like the first book, *"Kandide and the Secret of the Mists,"* in her fantasy adventure trilogy, Diana's role in the performing arts, as well as the business world, transcends the ordinary. She has been a performer, entrepreneur, and businesswoman since the age of eight when she invested all of her resources into a small magic trick. With a total capital outlay of 47 cents, Diana parlayed her investment into a twenty-five year stage and television career that garnered her the title "World's Foremost Lady Magician."

Today, she is the President and CEO of CMS Communications, Intl, an award-winning Marketing Communications agency that is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA., with offices in Phoenix, Orlando, San Francisco, and Salt Lake City. Her company's client list includes Fortune 1000 companies. *Special Events Magazine* has named CMS in the "TOP 50 Event Companies" for seven consecutive years.

She sits on four Boards including the *Academy of Magical Arts Educational Foundation, Inc.* (the 501c3 sister organization the AMA/Magic Castle), was an Ernst & Young "Entrepreneur of the Year" finalist, and two-time LA *Woman of the Year* nominee.

Having had 100's of articles published in the elite haute couture jewelry industry, *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists* is the first of her three fantasy adventure novels. She is also the co-author of the business strategy book *Tactical Abyss*; two biographies: *Sigfried & Roy: Unique in All the World*; and *Butterfly in a Storm – the Truse Story of Giselle Rufer Delance*; as well as her soon to be released book: *Why Most Braning Fails* (Feb 2015).

Diana has spoken to thousands of school kids across the country about self-esteem and anti-bullying issues. *Kandide* is endorsed by S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere)

During her performing years, Diana invented magic illusions for Lance Burton and David Copperfield, among others, and continues to lecture, write, and teach in this field. She sponsors the Junior Magicians' Club—a youth group she founded in 1974 with the help of actor, Cary Grant—at Hollywood's Magic Castle.

Leaving her hometown of Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 18, Diana filled her car with magic tricks, costumes, and a great deal of ambition, and headed for Los Angeles with \$45.00 to her name. "Even back then," she explains, "that wasn't very much money. But when you grow up living on the wrong side of the tracks, what have got to lose?" Admitting that it was pretty tough getting started in a town like LA, and she wasn't always sure where her next meal would come from, nothing mattered to Diana except pursuing her dream of becoming a world-class performer. Doing magic to support herself (and pay for college), the novelty of a women magician, along with her creativity and talent, eventually brought her into the limelight.

Diana starred in her own television show, *Enchanted Palace* as well as her own magical revue show in Lake Tahoe. She appeared on virtually every major TV talk and variety show, toured the world, and later became a corporate spokesperson for companies as diverse as *Ore Ida Potatoes* and the *Avocado Advisory Board*. She also became known for motivational speaking.

An avid collector of faery art, her collection of bronzes, clocks, paintings, sculptures, books, and porcelains is one of the largest in the world with pieces dating back to the 1700s.

Can reading make a difference in a kid's life?

“Absolutely,” says Jeff Smith, fifth grade teacher at Sable Point Elementary School in Longwood, Florida. After previewing *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists* by Diana S. Zimmerman, Smith decided that this book would make an important personal growth and pro-social reading project for his class. “I felt that it would not only increase my students’ reading, comprehension, and creative skills, but also teach important life lessons, namely that it is okay to be different, but that it is not okay to bully or make fun of others. *Kandide* is packed with fantasy, action, and adventure, and **the boys love it as much as the girls. This is the third year we are using the book in my class.**”

About *Kandide and the Secret of the Mists*: Aimed at middle school readers and above, *Kandide* is set in a world that rings true for almost every tween and teen, a realm obsessed with beauty and physical perfection, with intolerance for those who don’t fit the mold. Zimmerman merely changes the scenery to add mystery, intrigue, and magic. The story takes place, not in the ruthless modern-day hallways of a middle or high school, but in the equally harsh world of the Kingdom of the Fée, where beauty and arrogance are revered and anyone who looks “different” is shunned.

Teacher’s Events: Diana is available to speak at Teachers’ Events at no charge, and has created a Lesson Plan to be used with *Kandide*. Designed for grades four and above, it helps kids learn reading, creative writing, and behavior skills, as well as gain self-confidence. She is also available to speak at no cost to schools on the topic “That Special You,” which has received praise from teachers around the country.

There really isn’t much that can be said about Kandide that isn’t covered under "Bravo!" - NothingBinding.com