

# Literature Institute

## Study Guide

### LIT 414 Enlightenment

*Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Books 1-6. Boston: Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.*

UNIT	WEEKS	TOPICS	READINGS
<b>I</b>		<b>Overview</b>	
	1	Age of Enlightenment America: The Colonial Period India: The Mughal Empire Japan: The Tokugawa Era China: The Early Qing Dynasty	Book 4, 1-10 Book 4, 11-16 Book 4, 471-476 Book 4, 607-611 Book 4, 625-630 Book 4, 765-771
<b>II</b>		<b>Enlightenment</b>	
	2	Moliere (1622-1673) Tartuffe	Book 4, 17-21 Book 4, 22-87
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Tartuffe, critical scene, and main conflict.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: comedy of manners	
	Essay Topics	E1: Where does Tartuffe take place? What is the significance? E2: How does Tartuffe criticize the church, clergy, and laity? E3: How does Tartuffe explore the nature of human relations, appearance vs. reality, and human weakness? E4: List some of the characters in Tartuffe Moliere lampoons for being pretentious, arrogant, or hypocritical.	
	Note	Moliere was heavily influenced by commedia dell'arte, a form of improvised Italian street theater that depended on buffoonery, slapstick humor, and pantomime. Moliere's plot lines are simple. They exist to bring to illustrate human absurdities and weaknesses. He uses stock characters, and the result is a very amusing farce. Individuals could identify with the characters, and they resonated with France's emerging class structure.	
	3	Aphra Behn Oronoko	Book 4, 88-93 Book 4, 94-140
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: novel, noble savage	
	Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the idea of "noble savage" and romantic love in relation to Oroonoko	
	4	Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) Gulliver's Travels	Book 4, 141-146 Book 4, 147-198

Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Gulliver, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: satire, travel narrative	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss Yahoos and Houyhnhnms and their attributes. Compare and contrast these two groups of creatures with the human beings. Is completely rational society possible? E2: Discuss the rational society of the Houyhnhnms in light of the rationalism proposed by Enlightenment philosophers.	
5	Travel Narratives	
Essay Topics	E1. Please discuss the life, works, and ideas of the authors presented in this chapter.	
6	Alexander Pope (1688-1744) The Rape of the Lock An Essay on Man	Book 4, 232-237 Book 4, 238-259 Book 4, 260-268
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	For "The Rape of the Lock," please describe the plot, and conflict. For "An Essay on Man," please list the key ideas.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: mock epic	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss Pope's ideas in "An Essay on Man. What is God's vision in creation? Describe "the Great Chain of Being." E2. How does The Rape of the Lock satirize the life of the elite?	
7	Voltaire (1694-1778) Candide	Book 4, 269-274 Book 4, 275-338
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Candide, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: satire, novella	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss Voltaire's views on the philosophy of Optimism. Contrast the optimism of and Pangloss and the pessimism of Martin. What does Candide believe at the beginning and end of the story? E2: Discuss Voltaire's position on the evils of the society. Who does he think is responsible for the evils in the world? Who does the religion state is responsible for the evils in the world? What is the role of God in this world according to Voltaire's Deism? E3: Describe the Utopian society of El Dorado.	
8	The Spirit of Inquiry	
Essay Topics	E1. Please discuss the life, works, and ideas of the authors presented in this chapter.	
9	Rousseau (1712-1778) Confessions	Book 4, 367-371 Book 4, 372-399

Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide an overview of key ideas found in the readings for this unit.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: confession, creative non-fiction	
Essay Topics	E1: What topics does Rousseau discuss in his autobiography? How does Rousseau describe his experiences with reading, friendship, sexuality, vices, injustice, father, lovers, and employers.	
10	Equiano (1745-1797)	Book 4, 400-470
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide an overview of key ideas found in the readings for this unit.	
Essay Topics	E1. How does Equiano describe his early life? What is his experience as a slave?	
11	Mary Rowlandson (1635-1711)	Book 4, 477-515
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide an overview of key ideas found in the readings for this unit.	
Essay Topics	E1. What happens to Mary Rowlandson? How does being a captive affect her? What are her views and feelings about the people she lived with?	
12	Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)	Book 4, 516-555
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide an overview of key ideas found in the readings for this unit.	
13	Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)	Book 4, 556-563
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide an overview of key ideas found in the readings for this unit.	
Essay Topics	E1. What are Thomas Jefferson's views about politics, people, and the best way for individuals to conduct their lives?	
14	Declarations of Rights and Independence	Book 4, 564-606
Essay Topics	E1. Please discuss the life, works, and ideas of the authors presented in this chapter.	
15	Love, Marriage, and the Education of Women	Book 4, 719-764
Essay Topics	E1. Please discuss the life, works, and ideas of the authors presented in this chapter.	

**IV** **Finals**

16 Review, Essay, Exam