

Ender's Game

Chapters I-V

Directions: Please annotate your novel for the following information. For some of the questions, there won't be specific answers in your novel; therefore, please annotate your responses/thoughts next to appropriate events/character's names. Just to be clear, you are not typing responses for these questions; you are annotating the answers in the appropriate places in the novel.

1. Explain what it seems to mean for Ender to be born a "Third." What might serve as synonyms for "Third"? How does being a "Third" impact/influence his relationships with the following people:
 - his parents
 - his brother, Peter
 - his sister, Valentine
 - his classmates

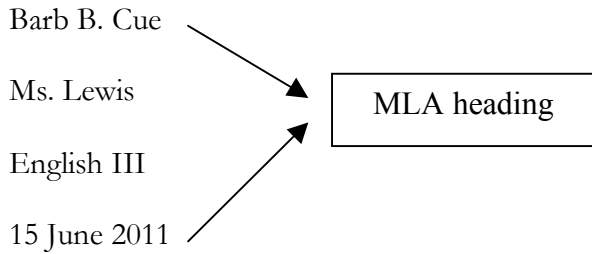
2. Card writes, "His [Ender's] isolation can't be broken. He can never come to believe that anybody will ever help him out, ever...That would be terrible, if he believed he had a friend...He can have friends. It's parents he can't have" (38).
 - Identify the speakers of this passage.
 - Explain the context in which the passage is written.
 - Why do *they* believe that it would be terrible for Ender to believe that he might have support? Why can't he have parents?
 - What is the result of the decision to keep Ender so alone?
 - Is the cost to Ender (or to any one individual) worth it in the big scheme of things?

3. Describe Ender in the opening chapters (be specific).
 - What do you believe he symbolizes in the novel?
 - What do you imagine is the significance of Ender's name?
 - Is his character believable? Why or why not?

4. Describe Peter in the opening chapters (be specific).
 - What do you believe he symbolizes in the novel?
 - What is his role in the novel?
 - What do you imagine is the significance of Peter's name?
 - Is his character believable? Why or why not?

5. Describe Valentine in the opening chapters (be specific).
 - What do you believe she symbolizes in the novel?
 - What is her role in the novel?
 - What do you imagine is the significance of Valentine's name?
 - Is her character believable? Why or why not?

6. Finally, throughout the novel, make note of characteristics of the novel that you think make it a science fiction novel as opposed to a different genre (i.e. fiction, historical fiction).



Ender's Game

Chapters I-V Questions

Directions: Please answer the following questions thoroughly and with attention to detail. Be sure that, if you don't type the question, you begin each response by rephrasing the question in statement form. Remember that you **MUST** provide specific evidence from the novel to support your responses.

7. "Sometimes lies were more dependable than the truth" (2).
 - Who is speaking/thinking this statement?
 - Describe the context of the statement.
 - Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

8. "Isolate him enough that he remains creative- otherwise he'll adopt the system here and we'll lose him" (27).
 - Who is the speaker and recipient of this statement?
 - Describe the context of the statement.
 - Explain what you think the statement means. Your response should include the terms: isolation, creative, adopt, lose.

9. "You taught me to hide anything I felt" (45).
 - Who is the speaker/thinker of this statement?
 - Who is "You"?
 - Describe the context and meaning of the statement.
 - Do you think that being taught to "hide" what a person feels is beneficial or damaging? WHY?

Ender's Game Questions
Chapters VI-X

Directions: Please answer the following questions thoroughly and with attention to detail. Be sure that, if you don't type the question, you begin each response by rephrasing the question in statement form. Remember that you **MUST** provide specific evidence from the novel to support your responses.

1. "Does it ever seem to you that these boys aren't children? I look at what they do, the way they talk, and they don't seem like little kids.'
'They're the most brilliant children in the world, each in his own way.'
'But shouldn't they still act like children? They aren't *normal*. They act like- history. Napoleon and Wellington. Caesar and Brutus'" (67).
 - We learn from this exchange between Graff and Anderson that there is a question of whether it is okay to sacrifice the wellbeing of a child in order to save the world.
 - So, I pose the question to you and your group: is it okay to sacrifice the wellbeing of a child in order to save the world? Why or why not?

2. In Chapter Seven, we see that there are some traces or leftover signs of religion and "holiness."
 - What are these signs?
 - Why have they become forbidden?
 - What does it mean that some still secretly practice these signs despite it being illegal or forbidden?

3. Dink tells Ender, "Because as long as people are afraid of the buggers, the I.F. can stay in power, and as long as the I.F. is in power, certain countries can keep their hegemony [domination, power, control]. But keeping watching the vids, Ender. People will catch onto this game pretty soon, and there'll be a civil war to end all civil wars. *That's* the menace, Ender, not the buggers" (111).
 - What "game" is Dink referencing?
 - What is Dink implying about the I.F.? Why are they the *real* menace?
 - What is Dink implying about the buggers?
 - Why does Dink believe there would be a civil war if people catch onto the "game"?

Ender's Game Questions

Chapters XI-XV

Directions: Please answer the following questions thoroughly and with attention to detail. Be sure that, if you don't type the question, you begin each response by rephrasing the question in statement form. Remember that you MUST provide specific evidence from the novel to support your responses.

1. During a conversation with Colonel Graff, Ender says to him, "So the whole war is because we can't talk to each other" (253).
 - Is an inability to talk to another a legitimate excuse to instigate (start) a war? Why or why not?
 - Give examples of other "wars" (literally or figuratively) that we, as human beings, engage in every day as a result of our inability or unwillingness to "talk," "listen to," or truly "hear" another. Why does this happen?
2. Ender tells Valentine, "In the moment when I truly understand my enemy, understand him well enough to defeat him, then in that very moment I also love him. I think it's impossible to really understand somebody, what they want, what they believe, and not love them the way they love themselves" (238).
 - Explain the quotation. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - What are other examples that support the truth of this statement?
3. Dink tells Ender, "I know, you've been here a year, you think these people are normal. Well, they're not. *We're* not. I look in the library, I call up books on my desk. Old ones, because they won't let us have anything new, but I've got a pretty good idea what children are, and we're not children. Children can lose sometimes, and nobody cares. Children aren't in armies, they aren't *commanders*, they don't rule over forty other kids, it's more than anybody can take and not get crazy" (108).
 - Is childhood a right? Explain. Does a person robbed of a "normal" childhood have any possibility of stability as an adult? Explain.
 - Does Ender or do any of the boys at the Battle School have any chance of living a happy life? Can they ever regain their innocence? Is that important? Why or why not?

4. Orson Scott Card has stated that, "children are a perpetual [constant] underclass [lowest social group] helpless to escape from the decisions of adults until they become adults themselves."
-Does *Ender's Game* prove or disprove this opinion? Use specific evidence from the novel to support your response.
5. The government in Ender's world plays an enormous role in reproductive decisions, imposing financial penalties and social stigma [stain or taint] on families who have more than two children but exerting pressure in specific families who show great genetic potential to have a "third" like Ender. Is government ever justified in involving itself in family planning decisions? Why or why not?
6. Who is the real enemy or, who are the real enemies in *Ender's Game*? Who is the real victim, or who are the real victims in this story? Support your answers with specific evidence from the novel.
7. Identify four themes in *Ender's Game* and support your rationale with specific evidence/examples from the novel.