

Ender's Game

Chapters 1–3

by Orson Scott Card

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: assimilation, charade, circumvent, extenuating, forestall, incredulous, malleable, renounced, requisitioned, rescind

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 • Chapters 1–3 • Ender Wiggin and his family

Section 2 • Chapters 4–6 • Ender leaves for Battle School

Section 3 • Chapters 7–9 • Ender joins Salamander Army

Section 4 • Chapters 10–12 • Ender commands Dragon Army

Section 5 • Chapters 13–15 • Ender's leave and a new school

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Learning the language was the first step in his **assimilation**.

- A. breaking from his past
- B. rising to high status
- C. fitting into a culture

2. The meeting turned out to be a **charade** with no real decisions made.

- A. an empty pretense
- B. a long celebration
- C. a heated debate

3. He looked for a way to **circumvent** the strict new rules.

- A. to get around or evade
- B. to openly break
- C. to fully understand

4. The lawyer described the **extenuating** circumstances surrounding the theft.

- A. making the act look deliberate
- B. proving it never happened
- C. partly excusing the act

5. She left an hour early to **forestall** any trouble with traffic.

- A. to prevent in advance
- B. to recover from
- C. to get away from

6. He stared at the bill, **incredulous** that dinner could cost so much.

- A. showing disbelief
- B. showing worry
- C. showing anger

7. New employees are often **malleable**, unsure of their own opinions yet.

- A. eager but inexperienced
- B. easily shaped or influenced
- C. nervous and easily frightened

8. The prince **renounced** his throne to live a quiet life in the countryside.

- A. passed to his brother
- B. formally gave up
- C. sold for a fortune

9. The army **requisitioned** several trucks from local farmers during the war.

- A. purchased at full price
- B. borrowed for a short time
- C. officially took for use

10. The principal decided to **rescind** the new rule after parents complained.

- A. to postpone until later
- B. to cancel or revoke
- C. to explain in detail

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Third — in this society, a third child, allowed only with special government permission and often looked down on

bugger — an insulting slang name for one of the insect-like aliens humanity is fighting

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	C
10	B

Vocabulary in Context

Ender's Game

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *"And there are doubts about him. He's too malleable."*

As it is used in the passage, "malleable" most nearly suggests that Ender...

- A. is physically weak and frail
- B. is easily shaped by others
- C. refuses to obey anyone

2 *"If they could, he was sure they would like to rescind the waivers that had allowed him to be born at all."*

The passage most strongly suggests that, if they could, the authorities would...

- A. remove him from his family home
- B. delay his testing by the fleet
- C. cancel the permission for his birth

3 *"Ender, however, was trying to figure out a way to forestall vengeance."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Ender wants to...

- A. punish Stilson for the insults
- B. earn respect from the other boys
- C. stop future attacks before they start

4 *"We're willing to consider extenuating circumstances," the officer said."*

The officer's statement in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. invite reasons that lessen his guilt
- B. accuse him of starting the fight
- C. warn him of certain punishment

5 *"Mother was incredulous. Putting the Stilson boy in the hospital?"*

Which choice best describes Mother's reaction when she learns Ender passed?

- A. stunned disbelief
- B. proud approval
- C. quiet relief

6 *"It wasn't a charade, Mrs. Wiggin."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Graff insists the test of Ender was...

- A. a show staged to fool his parents
- B. a genuine effort to learn his motives
- C. a punishment for hurting Stilson

7 *"He changed his name, renounced his religion, and vowed never to have more than the allotted two children."*

According to the passage, Ender's father responded to his harsh upbringing by...

- A. giving up his religion and name
- B. refusing to ever marry or settle
- C. moving away from his nine siblings

8 *"They look at you and see you as a badge of pride, because they were able to circumvent the law and have a Third."*

Which statement about Ender's parents is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. They got around the two-child law.
- B. They were forced to have a Third.
- C. They obeyed every rule strictly.

9 *"And you're a badge of public shame, because at every step you interfere with their efforts at assimilation into normal complying society."*

Graff mentions the parents' "efforts at assimilation" in order to...

- A. praise their loyalty to the law
- B. explain why they wanted a Third
- C. show their wish to blend in unnoticed

10 *"And so we requisitioned you."*

Graff's choice of the word in the excerpt reveals that the fleet viewed Ender as...

- A. a volunteer eager to serve
- B. a resource ordered into being
- C. a gift to a grateful family

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	C	Event comprehension. The key turns on 'forestall' meaning to prevent in advance, not to take revenge for past insults.
4	A	
5	A	
6	B	Event comprehension. Graff denies Mother's charge that the Stilson incident was faked; the monitor's removal was the final step of Ender's testing.
7	A	
8	A	
9	C	
10	B	Theme comprehension. 'Requisitioned' casts Ender as materiel the state ordered, fitting the section's view of children as instruments of the war effort.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

Ender Wiggin, a six-year-old 'Third' on a future Earth, has his monitor removed and then beats a bully badly enough to reveal a ruthless streak. At home he is caught between his cruel brother Peter and loving sister Valentine, until Colonel Graff arrives to recruit him for Battle School. The first three chapters are grouped as the Earth-bound setup; the section ends as Ender agrees to leave.