

Ender's Game

Chapters 4–6

by Orson Scott Card

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: chafe, compassion, contempt, despicable, disorientation, ghastly, sadism, somber, tormentor, vengeance

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. New employees often **chafe** when forced to obey strict rules.

- A. resent the limits
- B. give up entirely
- C. struggle to cope

6. A **ghastly** scream echoed through the empty house.

- A. sudden and piercing
- B. strange and distant
- C. horrifying and dreadful

2. She showed great **compassion** toward the injured stranger.

- A. concern for suffering
- B. caution and distrust
- C. curiosity and interest

7. His **sadism** made everyone around him uneasy and afraid.

- A. pleasure in cruelty
- B. constant suspicion
- C. hunger for power

3. He treated the new recruits with cold **contempt**.

- A. strict discipline
- B. scorn and disdain
- C. quiet suspicion

8. The room grew **somber** as the news spread.

- A. loud and restless
- B. gloomy and grave
- C. tense and anxious

4. Cheating a blind man out of his savings is **despicable**.

- A. utterly shameful
- B. deeply foolish
- C. strictly forbidden

9. Every day he dreaded facing his **tormentor** at school.

- A. a longtime rival
- B. one who causes suffering
- C. a demanding teacher

5. When he woke in the dark room, a wave of **disorientation** washed over him.

- A. exhaustion and fatigue
- B. dread of being alone
- C. confusion about surroundings

10. Burning with rage, she vowed **vengeance** against the men who betrayed her.

- A. lasting hatred
- B. open rebellion
- C. revenge for a wrong

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “They say that weightlessness can cause disorientation, especially in children, whose sense of direction isn’t yet secure.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “disorientation” most nearly suggests that weightlessness can

- A. sharpen one’s sense of danger
- B. slow one’s physical reflexes
- C. confuse one’s sense of direction

2 “Graff looked at them all with contempt.”

Which choice best describes Graff’s attitude toward the boys in his launch?

- A. scornful disdain
- B. nervous respect
- C. protective warmth

3 “We might both do despicable things, Ender, but if humankind survives, then we were good tools.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Graff and Ender may both have to

- A. do shameful things to save humanity
- B. do heroic things to save humanity
- C. do clever things to save humanity

4 “There was no chance that he would be treated with compassion.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Ender expects the other boys to

- A. share in his grief
- B. come to his defense
- C. offer him no sympathy

5 “The boy whose arm he had broken was out for vengeance.”

Which choice best describes Bernard’s attitude toward Ender?

- A. eager to befriend him
- B. set on revenge
- C. indifferent and aloof

6 “... his sadism made him a natural focus for all those who loved pain in others.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to

- A. show Bernard’s fear of the boys
- B. win the teachers’ approval
- C. draw cruel boys to Bernard

7 “It was the kind of person he was—a tormentor.”

In the passage, Bernard is characterized as someone who

- A. deliberately inflicts pain
- B. stands up for weaker boys
- C. quietly keeps to himself

8 “But a few chafed under Bernard’s rule.”

The passage most strongly suggests that a few boys

- A. welcomed Bernard’s control
- B. resented Bernard’s control
- C. ignored Bernard entirely

9 “From rage on the part of Bernard’s closest friends and barely contained mirth among the rest, all became somber.”

The author most likely describes the boys becoming somber in order to

- A. show the boys mourning an injury
- B. show the room turning grave and quiet
- C. show the boys growing bored

10 “It was always ghastly, and the Giant always laughed.”

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. Each death in the game is horrifying.
- B. Each death is quick and painless.
- C. Each death moves the player forward.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	
4	C	Character comprehension.
5	B	
6	C	
7	A	
8	B	
9	B	Event comprehension. The hush falls because Dap, an officer, has just confronted Bernard.
10	A	Event comprehension. The deaths occur in the rigged Giant's Drink mind game, where the player always dies.

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–6

Ender launches into orbit and enters Battle School, where Graff deliberately isolates him from the other boys to harden him. He begins mastering the null-gravity battleroom and the unsettling psychological mind game on the school computers. These three 'arrival and early training' chapters are grouped together, ending before Ender's first army assignment.