

Ender's Game

Chapters 7–9

by Orson Scott Card

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: annihilation, camaraderie, entrenched, facade, flux, galling, magnanimous, nonchalance, persona, pseudonym

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. The asteroid threatened the city with **annihilation**.

- A. complete destruction
- B. lasting damage
- C. serious flooding

2. A strong **camaraderie** grew among the teammates.

- A. spirit of competition
- B. sense of shared duty
- C. warm group friendship

3. After thirty years, the manager's habits were **entrenched**.

- A. firmly established and fixed
- B. famous and admired
- C. strange and secretive

4. Her cheerful smile was only a **facade**.

- A. a nervous habit
- B. a passing mood
- C. a false outward appearance

5. After the merger, the whole company was in **flux**.

- A. deep financial trouble
- B. an unsettled, changing state
- C. tight central control

6. Losing to my younger brother at chess was **galling**.

- A. deeply annoying and shaming
- B. mildly surprising and odd
- C. slightly tiring and dull

7. The winning team was **magnanimous** toward their defeated rivals.

- A. generous and forgiving
- B. cheerful and loud
- C. proud and boastful

8. He shrugged with **nonchalance** when he heard the news.

- A. cold and bitter anger
- B. a calm, unconcerned manner
- C. barely hidden excitement

9. Online, she takes on a bold **persona**.

- A. a strong personal opinion
- B. a fixed daily routine
- C. a public role or character

10. She wrote her articles under a **pseudonym**.

- A. a fake address
- B. a false name
- C. a borrowed title

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

slaverling — drooling heavily, with saliva running from the mouth

husbandman of pain — an unusual farming metaphor for someone who deliberately creates and cultivates suffering, as a farmer plants and tends a crop

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “Bonzo hated him for it, for the kindness. ... Galling, and yet he had no choice.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “galling” most nearly suggests that Bonzo feels...

- A. humiliated but powerless
- B. annoyed but in control
- C. thankful toward Ender

2 “He only knew that Ender had beaten him, and then rubbed his nose in it by being magnanimous.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Ender’s magnanimous treatment of Bonzo...

- A. earned his lasting gratitude
- B. openly mocked and insulted him
- C. deepened his shame by sparing him

3 “The facade of peace and cooperation had been undisturbed almost since the bugger wars began.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the “facade of peace and cooperation” refers to...

- A. a surface calm hiding real rivalry
- B. an open alliance against the buggers
- C. a lasting, genuine global peace

4 “She pretended nonchalance but she listened eagerly.”

The author most likely contrasts Valentine’s “pretended nonchalance” with her eager listening in order to...

- A. show genuine indifference
- B. stress her real boredom
- C. reveal her hidden interest

5 “The world is always a democracy in times of flux, and the man with the best voice will win.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, by “times of flux,” Peter means periods when the world is...

- A. unstable and rapidly changing
- B. ruled by strict censorship
- C. firmly settled and orderly

6 “When that happens, we’ll be too entrenched to suffer much loss.”

Which statement about Peter and Valentine’s plan is best supported by the passage?

- A. They expect to lose their incomes
- B. They will be too established to fall
- C. They plan to stay hidden forever

7 “He watched the camaraderie of old friends who had known each other in the Battle School for years, who talked and laughed about old battles ...”

Which choice best describes Ender’s attitude as he watches the camaraderie of the older friends?

- A. lonely longing to belong
- B. smug pride in his rank
- C. cheerful delight in the fun

8 “... to hide behind his too-appropriate pseudonym much longer.”

According to the passage, the Englishman predicts that Demosthenes’ pseudonym will...

- A. soon be officially outlawed
- B. soon fail to hide the writer
- C. soon drive away all readers

9 “... enough powerful people had been annoyed by the vicious persona of Demosthenes ...”

In the passage, the persona of Demosthenes is characterized as...

- A. a gentle, moderate commentator
- B. Valentine’s honest private self
- C. a harsh, provocative public voice

10 “... to spread mankind so far across the galaxy that no disaster, no invasion could ever threaten the human race with annihilation.”

In the excerpt, the threat of “annihilation” primarily functions to...

- A. warn against having more children
- B. justify spreading humanity outward
- C. predict a coming alien invasion

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	Character comprehension. Bonzo's honor makes Ender's mercy more galling than an insult.
3	A	
4	C	
5	A	
6	B	Event comprehension. 'When that happens' refers to the government unmasking them.
7	A	Character comprehension. Ender feels shut out of the warmth he watches.
8	B	
9	C	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

Ender is assigned to Bonzo Madrid's Salamander Army, where he is sidelined, then traded to Rat Army and finally allowed to develop as a soldier. Meanwhile, on Earth, Valentine and Peter secretly build political influence online as 'Demosthenes' and 'Locke.' The section ends as Ender is promoted to lead his own army.