

Ender's Game

Chapters 10–12

by Orson Scott Card

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: arcane, condescending, corroborate, disingenuous, ineptitude, jeopardize, loathsome, paltry, percolated, unconscionable

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 old manual was full of **arcane** rules and symbols.

- A. obscure and little-known
- B. old and outdated
- C. strict and harsh

2. She gave a **condescending** smile to the new student.

- A. eager to make friends
- B. hiding true feelings
- C. looking down on others

3. Two witnesses **corroborate** the driver's story.

- A. confirm with evidence
- B. add new details to
- C. repeat word for word

4. Her **disingenuous** apology fooled no one.

- A. insincere and false
- B. clumsy and awkward
- C. overly emotional

5. The team lost because of the coach's **ineptitude**.

- A. stubborn pride
- B. bad temper
- C. lack of skill

6. One careless mistake could **jeopardize** the mission.

- A. put at risk
- B. delay or slow down
- C. take control of

7. The **loathsome** smell of the swamp made us gag.

- A. oddly unfamiliar
- B. disgusting and hateful
- C. overpoweringly strong

8. After all that work, they gave me a **paltry** reward.

- A. poorly chosen
- B. small and insignificant
- C. cheaply made

9. Word of the discovery slowly **percolated** through the office.

- A. spread all at once
- B. spread gradually
- C. quickly died down

10. Charging that family such high rent is **unconscionable**.

- A. slightly risky
- B. completely ordinary
- C. shockingly wrong

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

salaam — Arabic for "peace," used here as a solemn greeting or blessing: "peace be unto you"

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “Not archaic, just arcane. Secret, subtle, roundabout.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘arcane’ most nearly describes something that is...

- A. outdated and old-fashioned
- B. loud and straightforward
- C. known to only a few

2 “Free speech is one thing, but to jeopardize the League over nationalistic rivalries ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the speaker views the nationalistic rivalries as...

- A. too minor to matter
- B. a reckless threat to the League
- C. a fair price for free speech

3 “Hated him for being young, for being excellent, for having made their victories look paltry and weak.”

According to the passage, why have many commanders come to hate Ender?

- A. He keeps his tactics secret.
- B. Their wins look trivial beside his.
- C. He insults them in public.

4 “He felt ashamed and afraid of learning from them, since they were the most terrible enemy, ugly and murderous and loathsome.”

In context, the word ‘loathsome’ emphasizes that Ender finds the buggers...

- A. weak and harmless
- B. clever and unpredictable
- C. disgusting and hateful

5 “... it was only Bonzo’s ineptitude that had saved them.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Bonzo’s poor command saved Dragon.
- B. The match was a fair contest.
- C. Dragon won by superior training.

6 “Do not be disingenuous with me, Colonel Graff.”

General Pace’s words ‘Do not be disingenuous’ most likely serve to...

- A. praise Graff’s honesty
- B. apologize for intruding on Graff
- C. reject Graff’s feigned innocence

7 “Colonel Graff, the name of Ender Wiggin has percolated through the high command.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Ender Wiggin’s name has...

- A. spread upward to top officers
- B. reached only his fellow students
- C. been hidden from the high command

8 “And you have no military police standing by to break up disturbances. It is unconscionable.”

Which choice best describes Pace’s attitude toward Graff’s inaction?

- A. outrage at a senseless risk
- B. mild disappointment
- C. reluctant approval

9 “Many were smiling, the condescending leer of the hunter for his cornered victim.”

In the passage, the boys watching Ender in the shower are characterized as...

- A. openly fearful of Ender
- B. smugly superior toward their prey
- C. anxious and unsure of themselves

10 “As if to corroborate Bean’s statement, the enemy began to call out to them.”

The detail that the enemy ‘began to call out’ primarily functions to...

- A. confirm what Bean had just reported
- B. reveal the enemy’s hidden fear
- C. signal a surprise attack

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	B	Event comprehension.
4	C	
5	A	Event comprehension. The teachers stacked the odds against Dragon; only Bonzo's poor command undid them.
6	C	
7	A	
8	A	
9	B	
10	A	Event comprehension. Bean had just scouted and reported the enemy sitting in wait.

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–12

Ender takes command of the newly formed Dragon Army and drills his young soldiers into the school's best unit through relentless, inventive practice. The teachers stack unfair, back-to-back battles against him, and his rivalry with Bonzo comes to a head. The section ends after the confrontation with Bonzo, before Ender's breaking point.