

Ender's Game

Chapters 13–15

by Orson Scott Card

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: attrition, candor, demagogue, hegemony, intelligentsia, itinerant, oblivion, reprisals, sentient, subservient

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. A war of **attrition** drained both armies for years.
 - A. a fierce, all-out assault
 - B. a gradual wearing down of strength
 - C. a steady drain of supplies
2. She answered every question with complete **candor**.
 - A. openness and honesty
 - B. calm and patience
 - C. confidence and charm
3. Many feared the rising **demagogue** would divide the nation.
 - A. a leader who inflames the crowd
 - B. a quiet, scholarly thinker
 - C. a ruthless military general
4. The two powers fought for **hegemony** in the region.
 - A. controlling dominance over others
 - B. a fragile peace among rivals
 - C. an equal partnership of nations
5. The new ideas spread quickly among the city's **intelligentsia**.
 - A. the common working class
 - B. the wealthy ruling class
 - C. the educated, intellectual class
6. The **itinerant** musician carried all he owned in one bag.
 - A. famous and widely admired
 - B. poor and barely scraping by
 - C. traveling from place to place
7. The ancient city was bombed into **oblivion**.
 - A. total confusion and panic
 - B. deep and lasting silence
 - C. complete and utter destruction
8. The raid sparked swift **reprisals** from the other side.
 - A. warnings of future attacks
 - B. acts of retaliation
 - C. shows of public mourning
9. Scientists debate whether the machine could ever be truly **sentient**.
 - A. able to move on its own
 - B. able to feel and be aware
 - C. able to store vast data
10. The servant was **subservient** to every guest in the house.
 - A. overly willing to obey others
 - B. warmly friendly toward others
 - C. quietly resentful of others

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

manling — an unusual term for a boy who seems like a small, hardened adult man
a name so famous and powerful that merely saying it seems almost magical, able to impress, frighten, or influence people

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 "... politicians who toadied to the Russians in order to keep the peace would inevitably end up subservient to them in everything."

As used in the passage, 'subservient' most nearly suggests that appeasers eventually...

- A. secure a lasting peace
- B. end up controlled by that power
- C. come to distrust that power

2 "The Warsaw Pact was on its way to hegemony before the First Invasion."

It can reasonably be inferred that, before the First Invasion, the Warsaw Pact was close to...

- A. ruling over other nations
- B. disarming its own forces
- C. collapsing into civil war

3 "Not murdering living, sentient beings with an independent genetic future."

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show the crew were aware beings
- B. show the buggers' war tactics
- C. show how buggers communicate

4 "... wear him down by attrition until his victory was as much a matter of luck as strategy."

According to the passage, wearing Ender down 'by attrition' left his eventual victory...

- A. a matter of pure skill
- B. impossible to achieve
- C. as much luck as strategy

5 "You decide whether it would be wise to adopt a strategy that would invite reprisals."

It can reasonably be inferred that a strategy 'that would invite reprisals' is one likely to...

- A. spare civilian lives
- B. bring the war to a close
- C. provoke enemy retaliation

6 "And a real world that he had blasted into oblivion."

Which choice best describes the narrator's attitude toward what Ender has done?

- A. pride in a great victory
- B. grave horror at total ruin
- C. relief the game is over

7 "... to use Demosthenes' influence with the mob and Locke's influence with the intelligentsia to accomplish something noteworthy."

In context, the word 'intelligentsia' emphasizes Locke's influence over...

- A. the ruling government
- B. society's educated elite
- C. the uneducated masses

8 "... which one of them is the great demagogue of the Age of Locke."

In the passage, Demosthenes is characterized as...

- A. one who inflames popular passion
- B. a scholarly policy expert
- C. a calm, moderate thinker

9 "... say what the dead one would have said, but with full candor, hiding no faults and pretending no virtues."

The author most likely includes 'hiding no faults and pretending no virtues' in order to...

- A. praise the dead person's virtues
- B. comfort the grieving family
- C. show the Speaker tells full truth

10 "... he was always Andrew Wiggin, itinerant speaker for the dead, and she was always Valentine, historian errant ..."

It can reasonably be inferred that, as an 'itinerant speaker for the dead,' Ender...

- A. travels from world to world
- B. stops speaking for the dead
- C. settles on a single world

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	A	
4	C	
5	C	
6	B	Event comprehension. Ender has just learned the 'game' was the real war, so his feeling is devastation, not relief.
7	B	
8	A	Character comprehension. Demosthenes is Valentine's inflammatory persona, the opposite of the moderate Locke.
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 13–15

Worn down, Ender takes a leave on Earth where Valentine persuades him to keep fighting, then moves on to Command School and the tutelage of Mazer Rackham. There he commands fleets through increasingly punishing simulations toward a final test. Section runs to the end of the novel.