

*Ender's Game*  
Essay Responses

**Day 1, pp. ix-26**

Choose either prompt.

1. Explain what it means for Ender to be born a Third. Show whether this is a negative or positive fact to his parents, his brother, his sister, and his classmates.
2. The government in Ender's world plays a definitive role in reproductive decisions, imposing financial penalties and social stigma on families who have more than two children, while exerting tremendous pressure on specific families, who show great genetic potential, to have a third like Ender. Is government ever justified in involving itself in family planning decisions? (Consider the strict policies that China has imposed on its populace: One couple, one child. Optional resources: [http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200209/01/eng20020901\\_102440.shtml](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200209/01/eng20020901_102440.shtml). <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2002/Oct/46138.htm>.)

**Day 2, pp. 27-53**

Choose either prompt.

1. The dubious character of Graff says to Ender, "Individual human beings are all tools, that the others use to help us all survive" (35). Argue for or against Graff's statement.
2. Do you view Ender as a strong or a weak person? Support your response with specific textual examples.

**Day 3, pp. 54-96**

1. The Fairyland that Ender encounters in the mind game is nightmarish. And it is extremely significant. Reread the sequence on pages 70 to 74. Unlike previous portions of the game, Ender's game character is a child, not an adult. How does this sequence symbolize Ender's own childhood?

**Day 4, pp. 97-119**

None.

**Day 5, pp. 120-153**

1. Research the historical figures of John Locke and Demosthenes. The following Internet sites should prove helpful:

*Hint: review each site before reading them thoroughly.*

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/locke/> (just use the introduction).

<http://www.in2greece.com/english/historymyth/history/ancient/demosthenes.htm>.

<http://www.hatrack.com/research/questions/q0027.shtml>.

Summarize the life and ideas of each (looking at Card's site is essential to concluding this essay response).

**Day 6, pp. 154-172**

Choose either prompt.

1. Why do you think Ender bullies Bean?
2. Is Ender a legitimate genius? Why or why not?

**Day 7, pp. 173-226**

Choose either prompt.

1. Select one or two conflicts encountered by Ender in these two chapters. First, evaluate his response. Did he respond effectively or not? Explain. Second, how would you have responded differently to the conflicts, regardless of whether or not you felt he responded appropriately?
2. Ender returns to Earth, ostensibly for a vacation. How has he changed since he first left Earth?

**Day 8, pp. 227-254**

None.

**Days 9 and 10, pp. 255-304**

Choose two of the four prompts.

1. Were Mazer and the other adults justified in deceiving Ender, as well as his peers, about the reality behind his games?
2. Earlier in this study, you defined the terms *genocide* and *xenophobia*. After reading the book's final chapter, the narrator presents a sympathetic view of the buggers. What statements might Card be making about genocide and xenophobia?
3. Do you think that the subplot of Peter and Valentine as Demosthenes and Locke added to or detracted from the novel?
4. Compare this novel to another you've read. Which is better and why?