Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Novel Study Questions

Chapter 1 – Third
1. What attitude motivates the adults to lie to Ender?
2. Explain what it seems to mean for Ender to be born a "Third". Show whether this is a negative or positive fact to:
- his parents,
- his brother, Peter,
- his sister, Valentine, and
- his classmates.

Chapter 2 – Peter
1. Was Peter joking when he threatened Ender and Valentine? Support your answer with evidence from the novel.
2. Why is Peter's behaviour at the end of the chapter so completely different from the rest of the chapter?
3. How do you feel about each of these characters (Ender, Valentine, Peter)? What did the author do to help create these feelings? Give examples.

Chapter 3 – Graff
1. What did Graff mean about evolution working against girls? (p.24)
2. Ender is leaving to learn how to fight a war, yet he takes Graff's hand. Why does Orson Scott Card (OSC) include this action?

Chapter 4 – Launch
1. Explain the meaning of the following statement: "Individual human beings are tools that the others use to help us all survive."
2. Explain the following quote: "Isolate him enough that he remains creative - otherwise he'll adopt the system here and we'll lose him." Your answer should include the terms: isolation, creative, adopt, lose.
3. Did Ender mean to break the other boy's arm? What does this incident tell us about Ender? Is it acceptable to do despicable things for survival? Why or why not?

Chapter 5 – Games
1. Ender works hard to express his feelings in private and not show homesickness in front of any other person. Is it healthy for him or not? What is positive and what is negative about showing feelings? What is positive and what is negative about not showing feelings?
2. How did Ender beat Bernard? Is this an unusual solution to his problem?
3. List the different coping mechanisms (ways of dealing with difficulties) Ender shows. For each one describe whether the overall result of each is helpful or harmful to Ender.

Chapter 6 – The Giant's Drink
1. What is the purpose of the "Giant's" Game? How should Ender evaluate his success at this game? Is he a murderer?

Chapter 7 – Salamander
1. What did Alai say to Ender? Why is the exchange between Alai and Ender so important?
2. What is the "just living" mentioned in this chapter? Is it true that Ender has never done this? What does Ender want out of life? How would you feel if you were he?
3. How did Petra help Ender? How is Petra's friendship a hindrance to Ender?
4. What does Ender learn about leadership and tactics from Bonzo?

Chapter 8 – Rat
1. Graff says, "Ender Wiggin is ten times smarter and stronger than I am." Explain what this quote means.
2. What is significant about the quote: "So teach me." "So learn."
3. Why is Ender's response to an attack so significant?
4. What did the scene with the snake and Peter's reflection represent?
5. How does the game know?
6. Discuss the importance of the last paragraph of this chapter.

Chapter 9 – Locke and Demosthenes
1. There is a real battle, internally and unspoken, between Peter and Valentine. Who is manipulating whom? Who really has the power?
2. Why is Ender still angry?

Chapter 10 – Dragon
1. What kind of leader was Ender? Why was he this kind of leader?
2. What did Ender do to Bean, and why?
3. What does the word Salaam mean?
4. What is important about the end of this chapter? Was Ender's reaction a mistake by the Battle School teachers, or was it the reaction they wanted?

Chapter 11 – Veni Vidi Vici
1. How does the computer know Ender so well? Does it really?
2. Explain this quote: "Yes. That's the worst that could happen. I can't lose any games. Because if I lose *any*--" (page 198)
3. Why are the teachers pushing Ender so hard?
4. Discuss the importance of the last two sentences of the chapter.
5. "Veni vidi vici" means, "I came; I saw; I conquered." Why is this an appropriate chapter title?

Chapter 12 – Bonzo
1. How did Ender provoke Bonzo?
2. Who was Stilson? Why was Ender thinking of him?
3. Why does Ender still expect help from the teachers?
4. Did you know Stilson and Bonzo were dead? Find the specific clues in this chapter about the deaths.
5. Was Ender justified? Why did they not tell him of the deaths?

Chapter 13 – Valentine
1. "Perhaps it is impossible to wear an identity without becoming what you pretend to be." Explain what this quote means. State an example of this idea.
2. Is it a natural, "good" instinct for humans to be killers? (survival of the fittest)
3. Discuss the conversation between Ender and Valentine on the raft. What does Ender reveal about himself and his enemies?
4. Discuss Valentine's conflicting thoughts about her brothers. How have Peter and Ender's roles shifted? How does Valentine feel about each?
5. Discuss Graff's statements about why the war with the Buggers was inevitable.

Chapter 14 – Ender's Teacher
1. What disturbs Ender about Eros? How does Ender figure out the truth about Eros?
2. Describe how Mazer is going to be the only teacher Ender has ever had?
3. Why had Mazer been dishonest with Ender? Do you think Ender could have handled the truth?
4. Have they pushed the children too far? Was it worth it?
5. Is genocide, or in the case of *Ender's Game* where an entire alien race is annihilated, xenocide, ever justified? Was the xenocide of the Buggers inevitable? Why?

Chapter 15 – Speaker for the Dead
1. Valentine said, "Nobody controls his own life, Ender. The best you can do is choose to fill the roles given to you by good people, by people who love you." After what has happened in Ender's life, what would he think of this statement?
2. Ender listens to the evidence about the deaths of Stilson and Bonzo. What is Ender's opinion about the deaths?
3. Why did Valentine make sure that Ender could never return to earth?
4. What is ironic about Valentine's statement about Peter saving millions of lives?
5. What knowledge did Ender gain the enabled him to write *The Hive-Queen*? Give specific details.
6. Why does Ender publish the book using the pseudonym "Speaker for the Dead" and not his own name?