

**English 9 Honors**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card**



One of the reasons we do summer reading is so that we can hit the ground running. Starting on the first day, we will analyze, discuss, write about, and complete activities related to this novel. **So, within the first week of school you will be writing an essay on this book.** This essay will require you to show two things—first, that you read the book, and second, that you can write an analytical essay.

To prepare for this essay, I have put together a list of themes and questions to guide and focus your reading. Think critically about the following:

- **Communication**—How do characters communicate with one another? Are there moments in this novel when miscommunication occurs? What happens as a result? Is misleading information ever given deliberately? Why might this be?
- **Power**—Who holds power in this novel, and how do they use this power? For good or for evil? Focus on the power dynamics between characters. For example, is there a power structure among the children? What about the government or other leaders in this novel?
- **Appearance and Reality**—Are things always what they appear to be in this novel? Do people wear disguises in this novel? Do they ever become what they pretend to be?
- **Characterization**—Look specifically at the children. Do they seem like children, based on their actions, thoughts, and language? Why might Card portray them this way?
- **Childhood**—Is childhood important, and what happens when innocence is taken from children? How much do siblings influence development?
- Does this novel show that the ends justify the means? Is it acceptable to do whatever it takes to achieve a favorable outcome?
- Pay attention to any other moments, characters, and decisions within the book that seem significant. *What stands out to you and why?*

You are not required to prepare written responses to these questions. However, you need to be able to discuss and write about topics related to these themes and questions. I look forward to discussing this novel (and many others!) in class!

# Ender's Game Text Evidence Chart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sem \_\_\_ Block \_\_\_

Thematic/Noteworthy Passage (quoted)	Page #	State the significance (2-3 sentences). (What does this passage reveal about characterization, theme, plot, conflict, etc? Is it personally relevant?)

Thematic/Noteworthy Passage (quoted)	Page #	State the significance (2-3 sentences). (What does this passage reveal about characterization, theme, plot, conflict, etc? Is it personally relevant?)

