

Dear Mr. Card,

I am a senior at Clarksville High School in Clarksville, Indiana, and I'm writing to tell you about how Ender's Game affected me and changed my whole outlook on life. I first read Ender's Game when I was a junior in high school. Although I had been an avid reader before, working at the local K-mart had forced me to cut back on my reading, something I regretted although it couldn't be helped. So when my advanced English teacher told us to select a book to read and present to the class, I chose Ender's Game because I knew it was science fiction, even though I didn't know what it was about. After I read it, however, I read it again, and again. Ender's story touched me on a level I didn't understand at the time, that I have only recently realized.

When I first read the book, I was floundering. My job was miserable, my grades were suffering, I had a disastrous personal life, and my position on the football team was in serious doubt. I was coasting, just going along, not applying myself to anything. So I approached Ender's Game like any other school assignment, just a meaningless chore to be completed as quickly as possible. But when I read it, I changed my perspective at once. The enemy's gate is down.

Having been an above average student for years, I at once saw a little of myself in Ender, for obvious reasons. His loneliness. His struggles in the Battle School. Things I had plenty of at the time. But despite all this, he succeeded. He won everything, he was better than everyone. Why?

The answer I came up with was that Ender saw the big picture. He didn't accept the Battle School Game for its own sake, but instead saw that it was for finding commanders for the bugged war. He saw the same thing while "training" under Mazer Rackham, even though the complete truth was concealed from him. So his success in his training programs was a side effect of his aims in the grand scheme of things.

I immediately turned inward with this new message. I soon began to realize that I was not doing things for their own sake but instead for a higher aim. Working was to get money and build a life. School was to prepare me for life, and hopefully for college. Football was to have fun and have something to look back on when I was old and gray. My problem before that enlightening moment was that I had approached everything as something that was just to be done "because", with no attention paid to higher motives. So Ender's Game gave me not only motivation, but a direction in life.

After completing my English assignment, I promptly read the other Ender books, swallowing them whole in about three weeks. I also sought out and read the Foundation trilogy, mentioned in your introduction to Ender's Game. I think that reading Ender's Game was the book that motivated me to start reading again. And that is why I wanted to write this letter: to thank you. Your book opened my eyes in a whole new way, giving me a fresh perspective on life. Thank you for both your time writing and your time spent reading this letter. I look forward to reading your next book.

A changed reader,

Nick Green