

# Ender's game analysis: humans and technology analysis



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Humans are in a world today in which technology is used on a regular basis. It is a lifestyle, and many would admit their difficulty adjusting if any electronic such as cell phones or computers went missing. A typical example would be an average teenager who forgets their cell phone when leaving their home. The person's immediate reaction would be despair at the feeling of loss and not a clue what to do. To them, the cell phone has become a need for survival as long as they can remember.

Eventually, the person would slowly but gradually recall other ways people used to monomaniac. In reality, many easily accessible electronics end up becoming a technological crutch people cannot walk without. Once taken away, they would automatically lose their balance and take a while to regain their footing alone. Arson Scott Card's, "Mender's Game" is a science fiction novel in which many sad and disturbing truths are revealed in Mender's relationships with his family, friends, and with the aliens; colloquially known as 'bugger's'.

The novel explores the tragic shortcomings of people's shockingly heavy reliance on technology, the scars left behind as a result of brutal methods of futuristic warfare, and the influence and terrifying power associated with the Internet. Although humanity prospers around new discoveries and technologies, such elements alienate the interaction between all species alike by creating social barriers in between, leading to the destruction of one another.

Unless he was stranded in a forest, a man would not be able to look in a direction that did not show any sign of technological influence. On his left he

would see a city, on his right a car, in his hand a smart phone. In the novel, Ender and Colonel Graff are traveling to Command School when Graff explains the 'insensible': a high-tech communicative device which is able to send and receive messages in a matter of seconds, even when the two communicators are light-years away.

The discussion then leads to Ender asking about how the war started to try and understand the bugger's motives, when Ender and Graff have a back and forth, " So the whole war is because we can't talk to each other. " " If the other fellow can't tell you his story, you can never be sure he isn't trying to kill you. " What if we just left them alone? " " Ender, we didn't go to them first, they came to us. If they were going to leave us alone, they could have done it a hundred years ago, before the First Invasion. " Maybe they didn't know we were intelligent life. Maybe?" " Ender, believe me C... ] nobody knows the answer. " (Card 253) Card uses foreshadowing in this passage, as in the end the queen buggery would have left the humans alone after all, and, to his credit shows how Ender never abandons the second thought that the aliens have a good reason to misunderstand humans. The humans' error is where they relied on ensembles and networks; trying to send signals to the bugger's when they solely communicated through pure thought.

The aliens would only be able to eventually reach Ender, which is most likely because he technology has its limits and capabilities, but people did not realize it enough to become open to the possibility that the aliens could turn out to be just as humane and feeling as any other human. This can be related to the saying, " Don't Judge a book by its cover," the queen buggery talks to Ender in his head, remember us, not as enemies, but as tragic

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sisters, changed into a foul shape by fate or God or evolution. If we had kissed, it would have been a miracle to make us human in each other's eyes.

Instead we killed each other" (Card 322). This shows how easily humans can put barriers between each other, how humans are afraid of something different. The aliens are described as insect-like, and one would imagine an image of terror; an ugly, humanoid ant which kills and vivisects humans, and if instead the aliens looked human- perhaps they would have been welcomed or forgiven more easily. Card suggests that looks can be deceiving, and prejudice rings very true in society, when he writes how the people on Earth give the most praise to the people with no faces, but personality resonates within their writing.

The Internet allows many people to become anonymous to most when they choose to. Back on Earth in the novel, Mender's brother Peter convinces his sister Valentine to help him as he conspires to dominate the world and its political systems. This was done through false identities and persuasive writing to gain incredible reputation that could sway the governments any way they would like. Children have the ability to manipulate just as well as any adult, and Card shows people how easily people can be taken advantage of, when Peter says, because in the real world power is always built on the threat of death and dishonor.

But mostly [Hitler] got to power on words, on the right words at the right time" (Card 131). Peter is using the world's fear of the war with aliens and the war uprising on Earth to influence and manipulate them into his way of thinking. Later on in the novel, when Peter is starting to take political control

of Earth, he attempts to use Ender and manipulate him as a war ere. Ender almost goes back to Earth, but does not, because he knows Peter will only try to think of the best way to use Ender as a tool, and will never show affection towards him because ever since childbirth, Ender had always been placed at a higher glory than Peter.

This competition is part of how Ender never had a happy childhood. Ender led a brutal and isolated childhood, which resulted in loneliness throughout his life. To Peter, the monitor on children's necks was a symbol, in which whoever had theirs' on longest was superior. Ender had his monitor on one year longer than Peter id. The fact that Mender's birth was authorized against law is a symbol of Mender's greatness. For this, Peter constantly ridiculed Ender out of Jealousy.

Valentine comments how none of their family is normal, saying, " A fourteen-year-old boy and his kid sister plotting to take over the world" (Card 240). She tries to laugh at this, but cannot, because it scares her that Ender would be smart enough to see through her guilt of being with the brother they both hate, and in turn, be ashamed of her. Children at the Battle School also realize they have been robbed of their childhood, hen a schoolmate, Dinky, tells Ender, " Eve got a pretty good idea what children are, and we're not children.

Children can lose sometimes, and nobody cares. Children aren't in armies, they aren't commanders it's more than anybody can take and not get crazy' (Card 108). Dinky gets frustrated that he does not have control over his own literally his purpose for living to save the human race, and realizes some

people have to make sacrifices, like their own happiness. To conclude, there are many flaws to the way of life humans have adopted through the evolution of technology.